

# Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa



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“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.”



**Matthew 28:8**

**Dear friends in Christ,** after 40 days of lent, we will be celebrating Easter on the 9th of this month. Easter is the holiest season of the year for Christians. The week before Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the events that took place just before and after the death of Jesus. Palm Sunday marks the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem shortly before his death. Holy Thursday marks the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, or followers. Good Friday reminds us of the crucifixion of Jesus. All over the world, as Christians we believe that Jesus was resurrected on the third day after his death. Easter is therefore a celebration of new life.

***Happy Easter and may the Resurrected Lord give us a new life.***

*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:

BOOK ➡ **Psalm 47:2** CHAPTER  
VERSE

**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.



# April at a Glance

## Activity Calendar of April



### Week Palm Sunday

**1** Repeat daily "Lord make me Holy"



### Week Easter Sunday

**2** Write down the Easter story.



### Week Divine Mercy

**3** Recite daily the Divine Mercy Rosary  
Repeat daily "For the sake of the whole world have Mercy on us"



### Week Saint Mark

**4** Read with your friends the Gospel of Mark

If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him.

John 11 :48

Saturday

April 1



**Jealousy always brings in the community,** division, hatred, death and many other kind of sins. As Christians, we should be careful. Very often, we are jealous of other people's achievements: money, beauty, success, love, intelligence and so on.

May God give us the grace to avoid jealousy in our hearts.

So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Matthew 26:19

Sunday April 2

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

**Obedience is key to becoming followers of Jesus.** The disciples did as Jesus had directed them. This respect to the directive of Jesus invites us to think about obedience. Do we always respect the word of God, do we always do what our parents, our teachers or elders ask us to do for the will of God?



Isaiah 50: 4-7 / Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 / Philippians 2:6-11 /

**Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66**

...he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.

Isaiah 42:4

Monday

April 3

**Sometimes when we see our low results** after having worked hard either in class or in our Christian life, we might feel discouraged or faltered. However, these words of the Lord are an encouragement to us so that we may never give up. We are called to keep trying in order to succeed. With persistence and hope in God, we will finally win.

May God help us not to give up hope!

Before I was born the Lord called me;  
from my mother's womb he has spoken my  
name.

Isaiah 49:1

Tuesday April 4

**"To receive a calling,"** is usually understood as a call to become a religious or a priest. But it is not always that. Everyone is called to serve God in various ways. As children we have been called by God to do his will. God knows each one of us, we are his children, He cares for us and He calls us to care for one another. Our unique vocation is to love and to aspire holiness. We can not become holy if we do not love each other.

Thank you Lord for  
your calling. Help me  
to be always faithful  
to you!



Isaiah 49: 1-6 / Psalm 71: 1-2. 3-4a. 5ab-6ab. 15 and 17/  
John 13: 21-33. 36-38

The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I  
have not been rebellious, I have not turned  
away. Isaiah 50:5

Wednesday April 5

**At time we rebel against God,** because we probably do not have what we want or need. At times we think that prayer is magic and that as soon as we pray, automatically the prayer must be answered. Our God isn't a God of magic but a God of encounter. Those who encounter the Lord receive his blessings; He opens their mind, ears, heart to understand.

May the Lord help us never to rebel against him!

Having loved his own who were in the world,  
he loved them to the end.

John 13:1

Thursday April 6

HOLY THURSDAY

**Have you ever experienced love in your life?**

When you feel lonely, sad and disappointed, remember always that the love of God is greater than any other love. Our God always loves us even when our parents or friends do not care much for us. On our side, we are invited to care for anyone we meet. God is Love. We can not love God if we do not love each other.

May God continue blessing us with  
his love!

Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14 / Psalm 116: 12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 / 1 Cor 11: 23-26/

John 13: 1-15.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up and shall be very high.

Isaiah 52:13

Friday

April 7

GOOD FRIDAY

**Sometimes in our homes, we have servants who help us with household chores** like cleaning, washing, cooking, etc. The question is: how do we treat them? Do we treat them right or do we mistreat them because of their kind of work? God would never mistreat us, we are his servants and his desire is to make us prosper in his service.

May we desire always the good of our neighbours!

Isaiah 52: 13 -- 53: 12 / Psalm 31: 2. 6. 12-13. 15-16. 17. 25 / Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9 / John 18: 1 -- 19: 42

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.

Matthew 28 :6

Saturday

April 8



## HOLY SATURDAY

### **Do you know of somebody who died?**

When someone dies, there is no way to see him again after he is buried. We can only pray for him. However, for Jesus it was different. He died and rose again from the dead because he was the Son of God and he later appeared to his

disciples and to many. This is called the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.



Romans 6: 3-11/ Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23 /

**Matthew 28: 1-10**

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

John 20 :8

Sunday

April 9

### EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Many times, we notice the wonders of God in our life. Many times we feel the love of God in our daily life. Even in class, sometimes we may not understand our notes but our results may be good. Do we remember to thank God who is the author of all that? At time we see, but we do not believe. Today with the disciples, we also believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Let us ask God to increase our faith in His risen Son.

Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said.

Matthew 28:9

Monday

April 10

EASTER MONDAY

**Have you ever encountered Jesus in your life?** Our Lord always gives us a chance to encounter him. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples to assure them that he is still alive. Today, Jesus continues revealing himself to all those who believe in him through his Body and Blood in the sacrament of Eucharist, among other ways.

May the Lord  
always lead us to  
know him better!



Acts 2: 14. 22-33 / Psalm 16: 1-2a and 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11/ **Matthew 28: 8-15**

Those who accepted his message were baptized.

Act 2:41

Tuesday April 11

EASTER TUESDAY

**What does it mean to accept the message of Christ by accepting to be baptised?** To accept to be baptised, is the desire to be born again, to accept the Holy Spirit and let God take control of our life. Baptism washes away our sins and transforms us into new persons. Let us pray that, we who are already baptised, may live according to the commandments of God! Let us also pray for those who are not yet baptized.

Thank you Lord for giving us the opportunity to experience a new life in you through baptism.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

Luke 24 :17

Wednesday

April 12

EASTER WEDNESDAY

**Our God is also asking us the same question.** What do I always discuss with my friends or with my brothers and sisters together as we walk along? Do I discuss about what can make me to grow in Christ or do I criticise my friends, my parents or my teachers? May I take time to reflect about it, and repent of the pain I may have caused to others through my attitude or by negatively criticizing others.

May the Lord pardon me and help me to become a better person!

Acts 3: 1-10 / Psalm 105: 1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8-9 / Luke 24: 13-35

He said to them, «Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?

Luke 24:38

Thursday

April 13

EASTER THURSDAY

**At times, our life is in crisis because of our lack of faith.** We complain because sometimes we are not satisfied with the little we have, we doubt because we don't believe that God is capable of doing everything for us. We live in fear of the unknown because we don't have faith. Today the word of God is inviting us not to be troubled and not to rise doubts in our minds in time of challenges and difficulties.

May the Lord give us strong and firm faith!

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

John 21:12

Friday

April 14

### EASTER FRIDAY

**Do you remember the last time you were generous and kind to someone?** There are

many people around us who need our help. Some are in need of basic things and others in need of our time. Are we attentive enough to reach out to these people? Our Lord always

takes care of all of us including, those in need. God asks of us to be charitable to anyone who needs our help.



Acts 4: 1-12 / Psalm 118: 1-2 and 4. 22-24. 25-27a / **John 21: 1-14**

As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:20

Saturday

April 15

EASTER SATURDAY

**The proclamation of the word of God** refers to our mission as children of God and as Christians. We live and proclaim what we have been taught during our catechism to our friends in school and to those around us. Jesus is the Word. He is the truth, the way and the life. We are therefore invited to proclaim the word of God through good words and good actions.

May we always be faithful to the word of God!

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 20: 21

Sunday

April 16



### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**To be sent, it is to move from one place to another.** Jesus Christ was sent by his Father so He came down from heaven to earth to save us. At the end of his mission, the son of God invites us to do the same, to be missionaries, to announce the Good News around us.

May the Holy Spirit that we received on the day of our baptism help us to be good witnesses of Jesus Christ everywhere we go.

Acts 2: 42-47 / Psalm 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24 / 1 Pt 1: 3-9 / **John 20: 19-31**

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

John 3:3

Monday

April 17

EASTER WEEKDAY

**To be born again, is at times difficult to understand.** How can someone be born again? The day we receive the baptism, we are born anew. And from that day, we are called to maintain that holy life by avoiding sin and by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation frequently. We are also called to love God and one another including our enemies. Are we ready to be born again?

Lord, help us to live well according to your word.

...that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

John 3:15

Tuesday

April 18

EASTER WEEKDAY

**When you see the number of Christians on Sunday during mass in the parish,** it is sometimes big. Any time I see such a big crowd, I sometimes ask myself whether our faith is as strong as Jesus would want it. Could it be true that many are Christians, but without a strong faith We cannot have eternal life in Jesus Christ if we do not believe in him.

*Lord, increase our faith in you!*

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

John 3: 19

Wednesday April 19

EASTER WEEKDAY

**We always use light, where there is darkness.** Jesus is light, he came down on earth in order to wipe away the darkness in our lives. Unfortunately, sometimes we prefer to remain in the darkness which stands for our sins. We therefore seem to feel comfortable in our sinful life. Today, we are invited to turn away from our sins and to hate evil. Like Jesus, are we ready to shine for others through our good deeds?



May we be light for others at home and at school.

Acts 5: 17-26 / Psalm 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 / John 3: 16-21

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

John 3: 34

Thursday

April 20

**When God fills our life, he fills it fully.** God never gives something in an incomplete way. When he loves, he loves totally without any reservation. We are called to do the same, to love one another as Jesus loves us. To do so, we also have to be generous towards others without limit.

May God enlighten us so that we may be generous to others.

He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

John 6:6

Friday

April 21

**Jesus always gives us the knowledge of what we have to do through his commandments.** Do we know the ten commandments of God? We have studied them since our catechism. Through them, we know what is good for us and for our neighbours. We also know what is evil and should be avoided. Our Lord gives us life in abundance. These commandments not only enlightens us but also test our faith.

May the Lord help us to avoid any evil.

Acts 5: 34-42 / Psalm 27: 1. 4. 13-14 / John 6: 1-15

But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."

Saturday

April 22



**As christians, we are not supposed to be afraid,** because we have Jesus who protects us. Our parents, our friends and our relatives may forget about us but Jesus as he promised will never forget nor abandon us. Let us always keep faith in our Lord who never fails to secure us.



Oh Lord, give  
us faith and  
courage to fully  
trust in you!

It is true ! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.

Luke 24 :34

Sunday

April 23

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Simon is the disciple whom Jesus asked to lead his flock. He is the head and the stone on which Christ built his Church. When Jesus rose from the dead he appeared to him. Jesus wanted Simon to believe that he had risen from the dead and through him the Good News would spread. Today, we are the new Simon called to spread the Gospel in our families, schools and in the world.

Oh Lord, help us share your word  
with others.

Acts 2: 14. 22-33 / Psalm 16: 1-2. 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11 (11a) / 1 Peter 1: 17-21/  
**Luke 24:13-35**

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6 :8

Monday

April 24

EASTER WEEKDAY

**Stephen is the first christian killed because of his faith.** He accepted freely to sacrifice his life for Jesus. Through his love for God, he received great power which helped him to perform wonders. Do we love God enough to lay down our life for him? Since our baptism, what have we done to express our love for Christ? Have we preached his word enough?

May the Lord grant us His Spirit of courage so that we may be his courageous disciples in the world.

Acts 6: 8-15 / Psalm 119: 23-24. 26-27. 29-30 / John 6: 22-29

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16 :16

Tuesday

April 25

ST. MARK, EVANGELIST FEAST

**Throughout this verse, we clearly understand that our salvation depends on** our baptism and on our faith in Jesus Christ. However, is it enough to be baptized and to believe to be saved? No. In addition to our baptism and our faith in Jesus Christ, we are also invited to do good and behave well. Through baptism, we become new persons and therefore capable of a new and a holy life.

Oh Lord help us to live a holy life that pleases you.

Whoever comes to me will never go hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be  
thirsty.

John 6:35

Wednesday April 26

**The hunger and the thirst which Jesus talks about in this verse is more than material needs,** because material things like food and water get finished. However, when someone believes in God, he is fed materially and spiritually; he never lacks something. Our Lord is our provider for our needs. He does everything for our care and our well being. Let us always make ourselves closer to Jesus Christ throughout prayer and daily meditation of his word.



Acts 8: 1b-8 / Psalm 66: 1-3a. 4-5. 6-7a / John 6: 35-40

This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6 :51

Thursday April 27

**Our world is generally full of sins.** That is why our Lord Jesus Christ has come to transform our sinful lives into lovely and holy ones. To do so, he has decided to give us his flesh which is the bread of life. Whoever eats the body of Christ, will live for ever. Our lives depend mainly on Jesus Christ our Saviour. He is the source of our lives. Without him, we cannot live.

Thank you Lord for feeding us with your body.

Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.

John 6: 58

Friday

April 28

**Our ancestors who lived before Christ never experienced the bread of life**, which is the Body and Blood of Christ, our spiritual food. Our forefathers were fed with manna in the desert. Manna is, according to the Bible, an edible substance which God provided for the Israelites during their travels in the desert. Today, we no longer talk about manna but about the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ.

Thank you  
Lord for  
your Body  
and Blood.



Acts 9: 1-20 / Psalm 117: 1bc. 2 /

John 6: 52-59

The words I have spoken to you are full of the Spirit and life.

John 6 :63

Saturday

April 29

**God loves us so much that he sent his only begotten Son,** Jesus Christ to save us. He has come to reveal to us the will of his Father through his word. The word of God teaches us about God Himself and His kingdom. We are therefore invited to daily read the word of God in order to learn much about Him and his will. We cannot know God if we do not read his word.

May God give His Holy Spirit so that we may read and understand his word.

All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

John 10:8

Sunday

April 30

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

**Thieves or robbers are those who steal from other people.** It can also be those who refuse to pass through Jesus in order to inherit the kingdom of God. Jesus is the way to heaven, anyone who would like to go to God must listen to the voice of Jesus just like the sheep listen to the voice of their shepherd. Let us always listen to Jesus through his Word.

May we always be faithful to the word of God!

Acts 2: 14a. 36-41/ Psalm 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6 (1) / 1 Peter 2: 20b-25 /

John 10: 1-10

*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  
Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops  
February 15, 2018

**“Look at my hands and my feet.  
It is I myself! Touch me and see;  
a ghost does not have flesh and  
bones, as you see I have.”**

Luke 24:39



**“It is not length of life,  
but depth of life.”**

Africa