

Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

bayard Publications



JULY 2023 • N° 16

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

Matthew 10:16



Dear friends,

welcome to the Living Faith Kids, July edition. Among many feasts throughout this month of July we will be celebrating the feast of Grandparents and elderly day. This feast is to be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the patron Saints of Grandparents. This year, the feast of Grandparents and elderly day will be celebrated on Sunday 23 July. This “feast reminds grandparents of to educate and their responsibility to pass on the Catholic faith to children and grandchildren. Pope Francis has chosen “His mercy is from age to age,” a passage from the Gospel of Luke, as the theme for the 2023 celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

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.



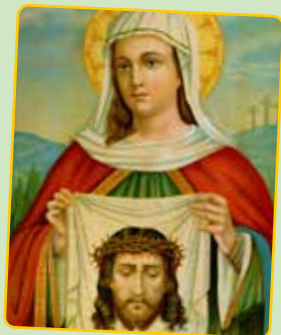
July at a Glance

Activity Calendar of July



Week Saint Maria Goretti

1 Repeat daily "Lord make me pure & Holy."



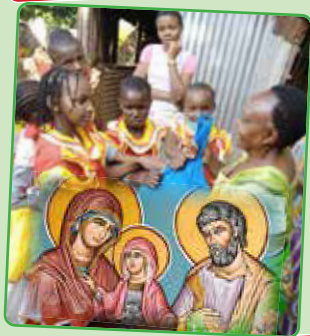
Week Saint Veronica

2 Write all what you know about Saint Veronica. "Lord help me to wipe the face of those who suffer."



Week Saint Mary Magdalene

3 Repeat daily "Jesus I Love you."



Week Saints Joachim and Anne

4 Visit your grandparents and help them.

“Go; Let it be done for you as you have believed.”

Matthew 8: 13

Saturday

July 1



Today's verse tells us about a faith that allows us to receive whatever we ask from God. Just like we are assured that our parents will give us what we ask of them, God our Father will give us whatever we ask if we have faith and trust in his Providence.

Lord, I firmly believe that with you I will lack nothing!



Genesis 18:1-15 / Psalms Luke 1:46-47.48-49.50 and 53.54-55 / Matthew 8:5-17

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Romans 6:4

Sunday July 2

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

What does it mean to die with Christ? Don't be afraid, it is not about physical death! To die with Christ means to avoid sins. Since Christ by dying on the cross has forgiven all our sins, we too are called to avoid sin (for example, petty theft and insults). All these separate us from the love of Jesus. It is by avoiding these kinds of things that we will be renewed in Christ.

Lord Jesus, make me a new creature in your resurrection.

2nd Kings 4:8-11,14-16a / Psalm 89.2-3,16-17,18-19 / **Romans 6:3-4,8-11**
Matthew 10:37-42

And Thomas answered and said unto him,
“My Lord and my God”.

John 20:28

Monday

July 3

FEAST, SAINT THOMAS

Dear friends, in the Church, we celebrate today Saint Thomas. Saint Thomas is also known as the doubting disciple who needed to touch the wounds of Jesus Christ before believing that he is indeed resurrected. Thomas looked at the wounded side of beloved Savior to heal the wounds of our own disbelief. We are invited to approach the throne of Mercy and cry out with Saint Thomas: “My Lord and My God.” By doing so we profess our faith in God and gets his mercy, his healing and his blessing.

Lord grant me the desire to be
your witness wherever I am.

Ephesians 2:19-22 / Psalm 117:1.2 / John 20:24-29.

“....Why are you afraid, oh men of little faith?”...

Matthew 8:26

Tuesday July 4

It's human to be afraid. But there are fears that paralyze and exhaust us to the point that we lose the meaning of our lives. It happens when great trials come to us in life. Hoping that you are not in a trial currently! As Christians, children of God, God calls us to keep the faith, the trust in his love for us in times of trials and difficulties so as not to worry too much about tomorrow.

Lord Jesus you conquered death and fear, I believe in you!

The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.

Psalms 34:7a

Wednesday

July 5

When we are afraid we are most likely to run to our parents or to our caregivers.

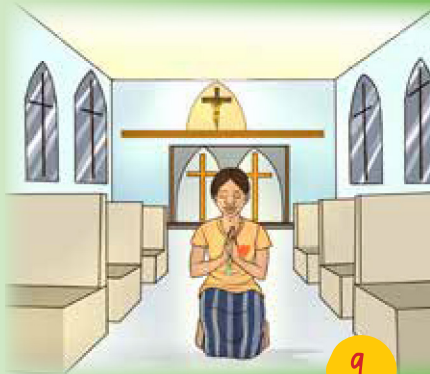
Just like we go to our parents for help, as Christians, we should call upon God and he will hear us and help us. For the Lord our God is our Father and always ready to receive us in his presence and rescue us from our fears and troubles.

Lord God, I cry
out to you as
a child, I know
you will not
abandon me!

Genesis 21:5.8-20 /

Psalms 34:7-8.10-11.12-13 /

Matthew 8:28-34



I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the sea shores....

Genesis 22:17

Thursday

July 6

Have you ever tried to look at the sky at night to see or to count the stars? If you ever did, you would have realized that there are thousands of stars in the sky, and they are countless. God told Abraham that he would give him descendants as numerous as the stars, which simply means countless descendants. As descendants of Abraham, we are blessed.

Thank you Lord for making me a blessed child of your big family.

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Psalm 106: 1b

Friday

July 7

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good! Do you share this belief? Would you be able to say that the Lord has been good to you, and that he is worthy of praise? For what wonder would you give him thanks? You may say that you don't remember what the Lord has done for you, but on this day he still gives you the breath of life, you have a family, wonderful friends who love you and many other blessings!

Lord you are truly wonderful, you are good to me, and I thank you!

“Because the Lord your God granted me success.”

Genesis 27:20

Saturday

July 8



In life, everyone wants to succeed.

Have you ever failed? Have you ever scored low marks in an exam and felt ashamed in front of your friends, your parents? Know that failure is part of life and what matters is what we do after. Do we remain down or do we learn from our failures and redouble our efforts?

Lord our God in everything I give you thanks. Thank you for my achievements and helping me to learn from my failures.

Genesis 27:1-5.15-29 / Psalms 135:1b-2.3-4.5-6 / Matthew 9:14-17.

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...”

Matthew 11:29

Sunday

July 9

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There are events, situations in life that happen that are difficult to bear. When Jesus tells us to take his yoke, He is telling us to bring these situations to him, because he is there to help us carry them, and with him it becomes lighter. But if we live in bitterness and despair, the burden becomes heavier and crashes us down.

Lord, help
me to trust
in you every
day in every
way.

Zechariah 9:9-10 / Ps
145:1-2.8-9.10.11.13cd-
14/ Rom 8: 9.11-13/
Matthew 11.25-30



“Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.”

Matthew 9:22

Monday

July 10

A woman who was sick for 12 years touched Jesus' cloak and she got healed.

This woman received total healing from the bleeding she had experienced over the years. Have faith in the Lord and he will do wonders in your life. May he restore our faith at all times.

Dear Lord, please restore our health and help us to have faith in your healing power.

But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.”

Genesis 32: 27

Tuesday

July 11

SAINT BENEDICT, ABBOT, MEMORIAL

“I will not let you go, unless you bless me”

is similar to saying “pray until something happens”. This means being earnestly convinced that God has the answer to our troubles and never yielding to weariness. You may feel like you are getting tired while praying but you must remember there is no other way to be steady in faith than being constant in prayer. Keep your prayer life alive asking God to help you.

Almighty God, please help us to be prayerful.

Preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand .

Matthew 10:7

Wednesday

July 12

The Kingdom of God is not a specific place that you can locate. The Kingdom of God refers to the world that God desires for all on earth to live in: that is to say a life of mutual love, of charity, of solidarity, of joy, of peace, of wellbeing. This means that we are all called to build that Kingdom of God here on earth so that all that is cited above becomes a reality.

Lord, here I am, make me a builder of your Kingdom.

Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a.17-24a / Psalms 33:2-3.10-11.18-19 /

Matthew 10:1-7.

As you go, proclaim this message: The Kingdom of heaven has come near.

Matthew 10:7

Thursday

July 13

Today's Gospel talks about the Kingdom of heaven. The Kingdom of heaven is not to be understood like something we can see. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual reality about doing the will of God. The will of God is to love God, to love his word and to live according to his word. In addition, let us bear in mind that the love of God goes hand in hand with the love of the neighbour.



Genesis 44:18-21.23b-29;
45:1-5 / Psalms 105:16-
17.18-19.20-21 /
Matthew 10: 7-15

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as dove .

Matthew 10:16

Friday July 14

Today's verse mentions the word “wise” which derives from “wisdom”. You may have been told by your parents or guardians to be wise. They are simply asking you to have the understanding and knowledge to make the right decisions in your day to day life. But in reality are you really wise on your own? True wisdom comes from God and begins with the fear of the Lord.

Dear God, grant me wisdom that only comes from you.

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:32

Saturday

July 15

SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR, MEMORIAL

Do you remember the episode of Peter who denied Jesus? Have you ever felt ashamed of being a Christian? Shame or fear of being a disciple of Christ can cause us to deny or hide our Christian identity. However young we may be, we must always show ourselves as disciples and witnesses of Christ. The world needs witnesses like you, don't be ashamed of Jesus.

Lord God, strengthen our faith in you!

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Matthew 13:8

Sunday

July 16



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The image of the seed put in soil refers to the Word of God sown in the heart of a Christian. Every child of God is a soil that receives the Word of God. And the sower is Jesus who is expecting us to bear fruits after receiving His Word. The question is: what do you do to bear fruit? How does it appear to others that you have been touched by the Word of God? Then you have to show it as a testimony through your actions and words.

Lord Jesus help me take care of the seed you sowed in me.

Isaiah 55:10-11 / Psalms 65:9abcd.9e-10.11-12.12-13 / Romans 8:18-23 /

Matthew 13:1-23 (or Matthew 13:1-9)

He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me.

Matthew 10:40

Monday

July 17

Jesus speaks to his disciples whom he sends on mission. Whoever receives them to listen to the word of God, receives Jesus Himself and by extension the Father Himself. The good news is that you have already received Jesus. Now it's your turn to pass it on to other people so they can receive it too. Look around you who has not yet received Jesus? Among your acquaintances, your friends?

You also know that you can simply pray for them by asking Jesus to visit them, to touch their hearts.



Exodus 1:8-14.22 /
Psalms 124:1-3.4-6.7-8 /
Matthew 10: 34-11:1

You who are poor, see God and your hearts
will revive

Psalms 69:33

Tuesday

July 18

There are several types of poverty: material, spiritual, intellectual and moral. Poverty can mean being humbled by the circumstances of life, such as when you lack food at home for days because you don't have money for it, it can be a situation of humiliation, of frustration, of suffering. Whether we are in one or the other situation listed, we lack. In all circumstances, we need to trust God. God provides, he is the giver of life and of all things.

Lord God our Father of all come to
our aid.

Exodus 2:1-15a / **Psalms 69:3.14.30-31.33-34** / Matthew 11:20-24.

“Do not come near ; take off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

Exodus 3:5

Wednesday

July 19

In some houses, shoes or sandals are removed before entering the house because it is clean and should remain clean. In today's first reading, Moses was asked to remove his shoes because he was getting into God's Holy presence. This means that God wants the purity of our hearts because his presence makes a place Holy, the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. A holy place is respected and dignified. Be watchful of your attitude towards others.

Dear Lord, please create in me a
pure heart full of love

Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Thursday

July 20

Anyone can be overwhelmed or tired of the various situations they may be facing in life. Sometimes we are required to seek help from our parents or guardians in order to ease the burden which may be too heavy for us. This is good because we feel God's presence in many ways and even through our parents and guardians. Above all, God invites us to trust him and his doings. He assures us that we are never alone and he is there to walk with us at all times even when we do not realise.

Dear Lord help us to realise that with you, we are never alone.

... 'I desire mercy not sacrifice'...

Matthew 12:7

Friday July 21

A key truth we can learn from this passage is that God calls us to treat one another with mercy, not to be rigid in our judgments in relation to the commandments. Mercy always refreshes us, uplifts us, and fills us with new energy. It motivates us to worship and fills us with hope. Mercy does not impose a heavy legal burden on us; on the contrary, the mercy and law of God together refresh us.

Exodus 11:10-12:14 /
Psalms 116:12-13.15 and
16bc.17-18 /
Matthew 12: 1-8



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5: 17

Saturday

July 22



SAINT MARY MAGDALENE, FEAST

In Christ we are new creatures. To be a new creature means to let go of old habits when one has been baptized. Do you think something changed when you were baptized? Baptism brings us into fellowship with Christ, in Christ there is no falsehood, no lie.

Lord Jesus I receive you as my Lord
and my savior, abide in me, and I in you.

Song of Solomon 3:1-4b / **or: 2nd Corinthians 5:14-17** / Psalms 63:2-4.5-6.8-9/
John 20:1-2.11-18

The spirit helps us in our weakness; for we don't know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

Sunday

July 23

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The spirit of God dwells in every Christian baptized; however we still sin, we still do not know how to pray, we even sometimes stray from the commandments of the Lord; for the “spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” The Spirit of God dwells in us to speak on our behalf, to take us into the light. All that we need is to open our ears and hearts to be filled, and then let ourselves be guided. Listen carefully, the Spirit is telling you something!

Almighty Father, help me to listen to you in my heart and to do according to your will.

Wisdom 12:13,16-19 / Psalms 86:5-6,9-10,15-16a / **Romans 8: 26-27** / Matthew 13:24-43 (or: Matthew 13:24-30).

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.

Exodus 15: 1

Monday

July 24

“The one who sings well, prays twice” says Saint Augustine. He also says in Psalm 72’s commentary: “Whoever sings a praise, not only praises, but only praises with gladness. He that sings praise, not only sings, but also loves him for whom he sings.” You might not be a good singer but singing does well to the soul and in singing praises you worship. You may need to try the children singing group in your parish...



Exodus 14: 5-18 / Psalms Exodus 15:1-2.3-4.5-6 / Matthew 12: 38-42

But whoever would be first among you
must be your slave.

Matthew 20:27

Tuesday

July 25

SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE, FEAST

It happens that in a group, some children will fight to dominate others, because they like to be seen, to be admired by others. Jesus will tell us that it is in vain if we cannot serve others. In a group, we are rather called to be ready to help when we are asked, or to propose oneself in humility to give a hand that is needed.

Lord, teach me to lead with humility.

“He who has ears let him hear”.

Matthew 13:9

Wednesday July 26

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The emphasis on ears and hearing leads us to understand that Jesus is telling something like. It is very important to pay attention, to take in consideration what one is being told. But it is also true that not all advice is good to be taken -this calls for wisdom. There is this beautiful African proverb, which says: “A deaf ear is followed by death and an ear that listens is followed by blessings.” It means, listening is a blessing. Listening is a difficult skill to learn but a very important to have.

Lord Our God, help me to listen to your words and understand what you want of me.

Exodus 16:1-5.9-15 / Psalms 78:18-19.23-24.25-26.27-28 / Matthew 13:1-9

“Behold I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.”

Exodus 19:9

Thursday

July 27

In the bible, clouds symbolize both God’s dwelling and might. God is painted looking at the men through the clouds covering his face so that people do not look directly in his face. It is absolutely necessary that He should be closely veiled when He draws near to men, for otherwise they could not endure for a moment “the brightness of His presence.” Despite such a might, He thirsts to get close to us. How far do you thirst to get close to God despite your young age?

Dear Lord, help me to listen to you and follow your ways.

Exodus 19:1-2.9-11.16-20b / Psalms Daniel 3: 52.53.54.55.56 /
Matthew 13:10-17

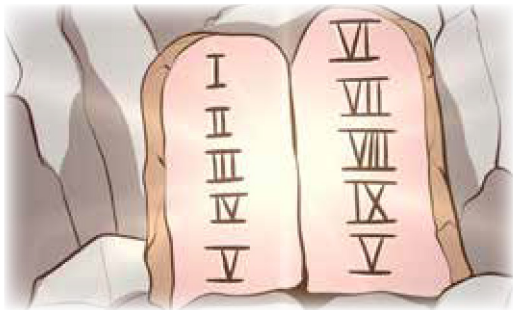
Honour your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you .

Exodus 20:12

Friday July 28

Do you know the 10 commandments?

Today's verse refers to the 4th commandment, which is a very important commandment. God is telling us that after Him, we should honor our parents to whom we owe our lives and who transmitted to us the knowledge of God. We are bound to honor and respect all whom God, for our good, has endowed with his authority. We should always thank God for the gift of our parents.



Exodus 20:1-17/ Psalms 19:8.9.10.11/ Matthew 13:18-23

...Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11:25

Saturday

July 29

SAINTS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS

Whoever believes in Jesus will not die! Jesus is not talking about physical death. He is talking about spiritual death. He who loses his faith obviously dies; by faith we have life in Jesus, it is faith that communicates the life of Jesus to us, and without his life in us, although we are physically alive, we become dead spiritually. It is the spiritual life which vivifies the physical life. It is better to be alive in Jesus and have life in abundance.

Lord Jesus, fill my heart with your spirit and love.

1 John 4: 7-16 / Psalms 34:2-3.4-5.6-7.8-9.10-11 / **John 11:19-27** /
(or: Luke 10: 38-42)

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8: 28

Sunday

July 30

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God works for our good in all things. No matter the circumstances, He works for “the good of those who love Him.” If you love God, you can trust that He is working for your good. He works for “those who are called according to His purpose.” Do you realize that following God entails submitting to His purpose for you? You have been called by Him for a purpose that He holds for your life.

Lord here I am, I welcome your purpose in my life.

1 Kings 3:5.7-12/ Psalms 119: 57 and 72.76-77.127-128.129-130 /
Romans 8: 28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52 (or: Matthew 13:44-46)

Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.

Matthew 13:32

Monday

July 31

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Jesus was refering to a mustard seed which though small it grows into a huge tree. You are young children. If you follow God's teaching, if you have faith in Christ, he will nurture your faith and make it flourish. Young as you are, your faith has great impact in the society and can make all the difference. Have faith in Christ and allow yourself to grow with Him every day.



Exodus 32:15-24,30-34 /
Psalms 106: 19-20,21-22,23 /
Matthew 13:31-35.

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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

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February 15, 2018

***“Whoever wants to become great
among you must be your servant...”***

John 3:16



***“Actions Speak Louder
Than Words.”***

Africa