

# VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS



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**ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE**

2020 May 31

## Veni Creator Spiritus

I remember being taught in primary school about the first name of our country. In the year 1606 the Portuguese navigator, Pedro Fernandes de Queiros, landed on a large island which he took to be part of the southern continent, and named it 'Australia de Espiritu Santo'. Literally, this means, "South(Land) of the Holy Spirit. As children we were filled with awe to know that our land belonged to the Spirit of God himself. As a young adult that awe returned when I learnt that the aboriginal people, believed by legend, when the world was created, the Great Spirit, (Aasha Monetoo) gave the land to them.

When I think of the the Trinity my mind goes this way - The Father is God BEYOND us, Jesus is Emmanuel, the God ` WITH us and



**The feast remind us  
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the Holy Spirit is God WITHIN us. So, through the power of the Holy Spirit God penetrates from beyond as Creator through to be 'one us' in the Humanity of Jesus, but ultimately to enter into union internally in our hearts. So great is his love for us.

I can remember coming to an awareness of the church as a community and not just a lot of buildings. As a young Passionist student teaching religion in the public state primary schools I had fun asking the children -'If you take the 'ch' out of the beginning and end of the word 'church' what are you left with? At first, they wondered and then burst out laughing saying to me - YOU ARE! (UR). So, while we cannot come together to celebrate our big birthday as Church inside our wonderful Highgate parish church, we can spend some of our prayer time thanking God for the wonderful people, living and dead who have 'shaped us' into who we are. The feast reminds us we are never alone, we belong to the People of God forever.

### Activity–

Read the Acts of the Apostles. This is the history of early Church and the workings of the `Holy Spirit.

**Fr. Tiernan C.P.**

A silhouette of a person kneeling on a dark surface, holding a small cross in their hands. The person is positioned against a bright, glowing light source, likely the sun, which creates a strong lens flare effect. The background is a gradient of light colors, transitioning from a pale yellow at the top to a soft orange near the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

# Both-And

The values at the heart  
of our faith are  
indispensable to become  
truly 'grown-up',  
**responsible, thoughtful  
human beings**

As Father George asked me to pen something for the newsletter, I was going to write about the importance of 'obedience', a notion often disregarded in our society where 'me' and 'my desires' reign Kings, in contrast to the Christian faith where obedience plays a crucial role. However, since we live in an anti-Christian society which tends to view us as 'village idiots', I will write about how lucky we

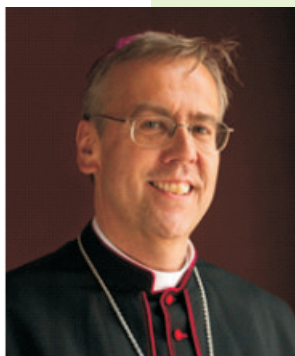
are to be Christian and to have been brought up according to Christian values. In my view, our society suffers from a high degree of unhappiness because it has forgotten -- and in many cases, it has never been taught -- values such as generosity, tolerance and understanding (firstly towards us, and, of course, towards others). Generosity is at the heart of Jesus' message and Catholics learn about it from a very early age. Even if it requires an effort, often a big one, to think about others and be kind and supportive, ultimately the Christian perspective leads us to feel much more satisfied in ourselves than if we went through life only considering our own personal needs. Nobody is born generous; we all learn to be so and then this value -- like all other values -- grows with us by becoming a part of our personality. However, we shouldn't take these values for granted -- if only because they aren't that easy to apply -- and we should make a conscious effort to live them in our daily routine. This is why we must be aware of our luck because the values at the very heart of our faith are indispensable to become truly 'grown-up', responsible, thoughtful human beings.

**Martha Halford**

# DEWFALL

“By sending down  
your spirit upon  
them like the  
dewfall”





# DEWFALL


Dear Confirmation Candidate,

I hope you are well; and that you and all your dearest relatives and friends have stayed safe during this pandemic.

I am so disappointed that I shall not have been able to confirm you when I was meant to. But I believe you will find the celebration all the more powerful on account of having had to wait for it!

I use that word 'powerful' deliberately - because it is with power that the Holy Spirit waits to fill you. Power for what exactly? Power to help Jesus – to help him change the world!

We were given a new English Saint recently: John Henry Newman. He understood this. “God has created me for some definite service,” he used to say. Now, you may feel



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you're too young to make a difference to this world. But Pope Francis wants you to realise it's precisely because you're young that God needs you. Talking recently to young people, Pope Francis told them, "You are not the future of the Church; you are its present! You are not a meanwhile but a now!"

It's beautiful to think that Jesus has "some define service" in mind for you - now; some unique way he wants you to help him change the world - now. What's difficult is to discover what it is. But that's why he confirms you with the Holy Spirit - to help you see how you can help him - by helping others.

May I ask you to do something special this Pentecost weekend? Pentecost: the day God sent the Holy Spirit upon those first disciples



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gathered in Jerusalem. Find a moment this weekend when you can be still. Go to your room; close the door; and pray to your Father. And, as Jesus tells us in the Gospels, your Father, who sees everything that is done in secret, will hear you.

Then ask your Father for two things: (1) ask him to send the Holy Spirit upon our world that we might be rid of this virus; (2) ask him to send the Holy Spirit upon you to prepare your heart to receive the Holy Spirit in all his fullness at Confirmation.

Be sure that I will be praying for you too.

I leave you the Blessing of Abraham:

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

may the Lord shed his light upon;

may the Lord look upon you with kindness all the days of your life!

Your loving Bishop

**Rt Rev. Nicholas Hudson**

Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster



# BENEDICTION

**Words we connect with the Holy Spirit,  
like fire, flame, energy, gifts.**

Fire and flame because it will always have some effect. You don't touch fire without warmth, heat, and if too near danger. The spirit of God touches us with fire of love, the flame of faith and tongues of fire which loosened their tongues to speak of Jesus.

Spirit warm me, touch me with the flame of faith so that I touch those I meet with faith.

Spirit is energy. Faith can get stuck in traditions, in boredom, in unattractiveness. Can we rediscover each Pentecost the energy which got the apostles, the followers going? That every woman and man who knew Jesus found their hearts burning within them.

Spirit energize me, enthuse me, with the gift of friendship with Jesus whose spirit you are.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church and like all birthdays it reminds us of goodness and life.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your divine love.  
Amen.



# *Remember Holy Joe*

Your faithful stewardship throughout this crisis has enabled us to fulfil our mission without interruption. And so, I continue to encourage you to remember that St. Joseph's mission is vital to our community now, and will be all the more needed in the weeks and months to come.

I'm inviting you to join me in giving a special Easter offering online, as an act of faith and thanksgiving for the abundant life that you experience through the many ministries of Holy Joe. Your generosity makes this abundant life possible for so many others, both near and far—especially in this season of deep need. I am grateful for your generosity and for your continued faithfulness to God, in such a time as this.

**Please visit our website and the portal 'Donate to Our Parish' and download the forms you need and make your offerings.**



## REMEMBER AND PRAY

+ Francesco Stabile  
+ Annie Catherine Canning  
+ Catherine Carmel Conroy  
+ Patrick Hugh Farrell  
+ Isabel Pycroft  
+ George Rego,

beloved father of our  
Superior General Joachim Rego.



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