

Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>

Letter 278

June, 2025

5th



Pentecost...our new season



It is difficult to explain the phenomenon of attraction or 'calling'. Each of us has experienced it, but it remains a mystery to us. There are human experiences such as when people meet, seemingly 'by chance,' that seem much deeper than coincidence. People from primitive cultures have these kind of experiences

all the time. They refer to it as the work of 'spirits'. Western rational thinking tends not to understand the working of spirits, and maybe most of all the working of 'the' spirit.

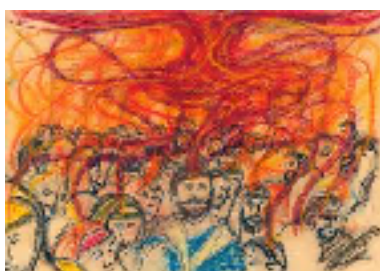
**YOUR MOTHER'S
SPIRIT IS TRYING TO
REACH YOU—LISTEN
TO WHAT SHE HAS
TO SAY**

Despite this, in everyday ways we say things like 'she has her Mother's spirit' or 'He showed real spirit' or 'I felt inspired'. This language reveals that we understand that the spirit of one person can live in another and this is what we celebrate at Pentecost!

Originally, the feast of Pentecost was the Jewish feast of Weeks celebrated 50 days after Passover. The feast celebrated God giving the law to Moses on Mt Sinai and was considered the birthday of Israel, because the people became bound in a covenant with God. This was expressed as "we will be God's people, and God will be our God". God lived among them, within them and for them. Each year at Pentecost, the people renewed their commitment to this covenant.

AND YOU ARE TO CELEBRATE THE
FEAST OF WEEKS WITH THE
FIRSTFRUITS OF THE WHEAT
HARVEST, AND THE FEAST OF
GATHERING AT THE FULL OF THE
YEAR.
- LEVITICUS 23:17

The apostles and the early group of believers (we are told there were about 120)



had a life changing experience at Pentecost day, after Jesus' death. It happened as they prayed. They would have been gathered, not in the room of a house but in a common area in the Temple where they had been meeting since Jesus left them. Here they were surrounded by crowds of Jews from every country who had come to Jerusalem for the feast.

Suddenly they were changed. They knew Jesus' spirit was within them and among them. How could they describe this.....a rush of wind, drops of fire, people understanding foreign languages!



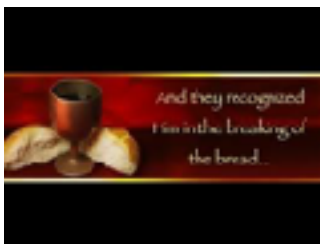
Pentecost was what we might call, a Eureka moment. The Spirit the disciples recognised, was Jesus' spirit. They could not have it until he had left them. This was Jesus present in another way. Now it was within them and they felt it among themselves drawing them into fellowship.

Pentecost was the commissioning of the Church. The new covenant was not mediated through the law and obligation, but through the spirit of Jesus acting within and among them. People who spoke foreign languages could understand each other because God's people were not just from one nation. The new community included people from every nation.



Pentecost is for us a call to mission. It is a celebration of Jesus' spirit. The spirit is life and life is carried in breath. We remember that in the Genesis story of creation, when God created the man Adam, he breathed into his nostrils. God did not breathe into the nostrils of the animals – only humans, because we carry God's spirit in a unique way.

Jesus breathed on his disciples and gave them his peace. He did not just appear to them, he breathed his life – his spirit into them, just as Adam received God's breath.



The spirit of God did not arrive at Pentecost. It was and is always here. At Pentecost, Jesus disciples experienced that God's spirit had been gifted to them in a new way, through Jesus, and that they could know and experience that spirit of love, friendship, compassion and forgiveness, when they gathered together and remembered, - when they broke bread together.

The spirit – the spirit of Jesus is alive and vibrant when we welcome, embrace, affirm, support, reach out to, forgive, pray for and love one another. Long may that continue in our families and local communities and especially here at Holy Cross, because it is by those actions that the spirit of Jesus is active among us.

John Khoury



John arrived at Holy Cross in January to test out his vocation as a Passionist. He had been discerning for several years, but of course the best way to 'test' something is to experience it and John had to courage to do that. He has decided after discernment with Erick, his formator, that while he wants to discern further about priesthood, he does not believe Passionist community life is his calling. He will leave Holy Cross tomorrow and his parents will warmly welcome him home. He has been greatly appreciated by those to whom he has taken communion. We thank John for his time with us, his generosity and his strong faith. We wish him well and we will remember him in our prayer.

JD...37



JD is from Châu Đức, Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu on the southern coast, east of Saigon.

He has a brother studying with the Oblates and living in Camberwell and he himself has completed a Masters in Theology at YTU and he is seeking a suitable pathway to undertake a doctorate.

He regularly celebrates weekend Masses in Vietnamese in St Timothy's parish, Vermont and other parishes.

Note

Four of our men, John Auram (PNG) Justin Durai-Raj (Hobart) Kien (Adelaide) and Doan (Sydney) will arrive on Sunday and spend the week at an Ecclesiastical Administration Course at YTU. We will also have Jose Matthew and an Indian Passionist Srij, join us for the evening meal on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, JD celebrated his 37th birthday. One of his classmates, Paul Kien who is in Adelaide working among the Vietnamese in Pooraka, celebrated his 30th birthday the following day.



Holy Cross 60th



Denis Travers addressing the gathering on the occasion of the 60th jubilee

Coffee Cart photos from May 25th



Denis with Sandra and George Johnson

More Coffee Cart photos

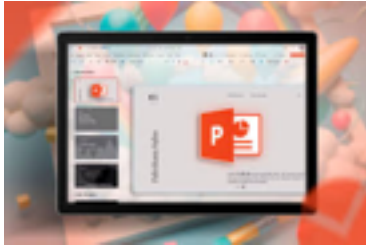








Power Point on Sundays



Since our last group of postulants left Holy Cross last June, Tri has been preparing and displaying the images and words for each week's Sunday liturgy. John started to assist Tri and they 'took turns' for the past few months. Now, at least for a few months from June 22nd, we will not have anyone to display the Power Point on Sunday Mass, because Tri will be an ordained deacon. Peter Norman has helped on some Sundays, and he is willing to help out again some weeks. I'm hoping there is someone who knows enough about computers and Power Point, to be able to assist us with this task. We are hoping to have another student here from September or October, which will mean that we will be covered then for most Sundays.

If you are willing and able to help, could you please see Tri this Sunday. Thank you.

More idiom and its meaning

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
What you have is worth more than what you might have later

A penny for your thoughts (Tell me what you're thinking)

Money saved is a money earned
Money you save today you can spend later

A perfect storm (The worst possible situation)

A picture is worth a thousand words
An image is far more compelling than how you could describe it
Better to show than to tell

Add insult to injury (To make a bad situation worse)

Barking up the wrong tree (Looking for solutions in the wrong place)

Birds of a feather flock together
People who are alike are often friends (usually used negatively)

Don't bite off more than you can chew
Don't take on a project that you cannot finish

Break the ice (Make people feel more comfortable)

By the skin of your teeth (That was close!)

Comparing apples to oranges

Comparing two things that are too different to do so

Costs an arm and a leg (Very expensive)

I'd do that at the drop of a hat (I'd do that without even thinking about it)

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Don't count on something good happening until it's happened

There's no use crying over spilt milk

There is no use in getting upset now that it can't be changed

Don't give up your day job (You're not very good at this)

Don't put all your eggs in one basket (What you are doing is too risky)

Every cloud has a silver lining (Good things come after bad things)

You'll get a taste of your own medicine

You'll get treated the way you've been treating others (negative)

She gave him the cold shoulder (She ignored him)

He is dragging the chain (He is not getting the job done)

Humour

A little girl was working on an assignment 'Where my family came from.' She asked her grandmother, "Grandma, where did I come from?" Her grandmother nervously said, "You came from heaven, dear."

Looking puzzled, the little girl asked, "How?" Her grandmother said, "You drifted down from heaven on a cloud... and your mother caught you in a basket and brought you home." "OK. And where did mommy come from?"

"She came from heaven, too."

"What about you, grandma?" "I came from heaven too," she replied. "Oh," the little girl thought for a second, "ok." She went and wrote it down. "Thanks."

She turned to Chat GPT. and the next day she turned in her paper. It began, "For three generations there have been no natural births in our family."

Joseph and Grace Ko



Our good friends Grace and Joe would like you to be aware that they will be away, mostly in Hong Kong, until early September. They flew out on Sunday morning and are looking forward to extensive babysitting duties while they are away. Hopefully their grand-daughter won't need to consult Chat GPT!



Lambs to the left of me. Mutton to the right. Here I am. Stuck in the middle with ewe. 🐑🐑🐑



TOPLESS BAAA MAID IN NEW ZEALAND



40 ENGLISH WORDS YOU NEVER THOUGHT EXISTED

1. **Agog** – Very eager or curious to hear or see something.
2. **Bumfuzzle** – To confuse or fuster.
3. **Cacophony** – A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds.
4. **Callipygian** – Having well-shaped buttocks.
5. **Cattywampus** – Askew or awry.
6. **Collywobbles** – A feeling of anxiety or an upset stomach.
7. **Defenestration** – The act of throwing someone out of a window.
8. **Discombobulate** – To confuse or disconcert.
9. **Doodle Sack** – An old word for a bagpipe.
10. **Erf** – A plot of land in a town (South African English).
11. **Flibbertigibbet** – A frivolous, flighty, or excessively talkative person.
12. **Gardylow** – A warning shouted before throwing waste from above (historical).
13. **Gobbledygook** – Language that is meaningless or hard to understand.
14. **Hullabaloo** – A commotion or fuss.
15. **Impignorate** – To pawn or mortgage something.
16. **Jiggery-pokery** – Deceitful or dishonest behavior.
17. **Kerfuffle** – A commotion or fuss.
18. **Limerence** – The state of being infatuated with another person.
19. **Lollygag** – To dawdle or be slow.
20. **Malarkey** – Nonsense.
21. **Mumpsimus** – A stubborn person who keeps making a known mistake.
22. **Nudiustertian** – Relating to the day before yesterday.
23. **Oxter** – An armpit (chiefly Scottish/Irish English).
24. **Pandiculation** – The act of stretching and yawning.
25. **Pettifogger** – A lawyer who handles petty cases, often disreputably.
26. **Quire** – Two dozen sheets of paper.
27. **Ratoon** – A small shoot growing from the root of a plant (e.g., sugar cane).
28. **Sialoquent** – Spitting while speaking.
29. **Skedaddle** – To run away quickly.
30. **Snollygoster** – A shrewd, unprincipled person (especially in politics).
31. **Susurrus** – Whispering, murmuring, or rustling.
32. **Tittynope** – A small quantity of something left over (like a few grains of rice).
33. **Ulotrichous** – Having woolly or tightly curled hair.
34. **Ultracrepidarian** – Someone who speaks on things they don't understand.
35. **Wamble** – Stomach rumbling or a feeling of nausea.
36. **Widdershins** – Counterclockwise or in the wrong direction.
37. **Xertz** – To gulp down something quickly and greedily.
38. **Yclept** – Named or called (archaic).
39. **Zugzwang** – A situation in chess where every possible move is a bad one.
40. **Zenzizenzizencic** – The eighth power of a number (obsolete math term).



ENGLISH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU DRIVE IN PARKWAYS AND PARK IN DRIVEWAYS.	THE WORD QUEUE IS JUST A Q FOLLOWED BY FOUR SILENT LETTERS.
IT'S ALSO THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU RECITE IN A PLAY AND PLAY IN A RECITAL.	JAIL AND PRISON ARE SYNONYMS. BUT JAILER AND PRISONER ARE ANTONYMS.
YOUR FINGERS HAVE FINGERTIPS BUT YOUR TOES DON'T HAVE TOETIPS.	WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY CAR, IT'S CALLED A SHIPMENT . BUT WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY SHIP, IT'S CALLED CARGO .
YET, YOU CAN TIPTOE BUT NOT TIPFINGER .	

Can you work out some of these?

INTERPRET THE FOLLOWING:			
1 <div>SAND</div>	2 <div>MAN BOARD</div>	3 <div>STAND I</div>	4 <div>R E A D I N G </div>
5 <div>WEAR LONG</div>	6 <div>R ROADS A D S</div>	7 <div>↓ T W N</div>	8 <div>CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE</div>
9 <div>LE VEL</div>	10 <div>D M.D. P.H.D. B.S.</div>	11 <div>KNIFE LIGHTS</div>	12 <div>III I ∞</div>
13 <div>CHAIR</div>	14 <div>DICE DICE</div>	15 <div>↑ T O C O T ↓</div>	16 <div>GROUND FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET</div>
17 <div>MIND MATTER</div>	18 <div>HE'S/HIMSELF</div>	19 <div>ECNALG</div>	20 <div>DEATH/LIFE</div>
21 <div>G.I. C C C C</div>	22 <div>—PROGRAM</div>	23 <div>RECORD</div>	24 <div>YOU J UST ME</div>

Dominic Isgro

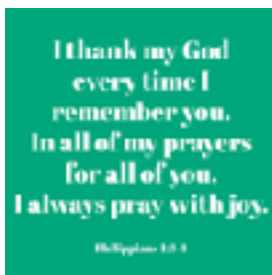
In the newsletter, February 2023, we wrote this: *We want to acknowledge Dominic Isgro, a long time integral part of the St Gabriel's Committee and generous helper around Holy Cross until ill -health affected him. Dominic is 90 years of age, and coming to the end of his life. We give thanks for him, for Lucia, for Silvana and their family.*

Dominic finally went to his heavenly reward last Sunday afternoon, leaving behind some years of deep sorrow and struggle, but giant memories among those of us who knew and loved him.

Dominic's funeral will be held at Holy Cross tomorrow (Friday June 6th at 10.30am. It will be preceded by the Rosary at 10.00am.

Prayers

We pray for all who have died recently, especially **Dominic Isgro**, and for his wife Lucia and daughter Silvana, and all in the St Gabriele family who grieve for Dominic. We also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **John Chubb, Maria DiMauro, Salvatore Rao, John Smith, Giovanni Micelotta** and **Marie Ryan**, that they have found joy in God's eternal presence.



We pray for all of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness and all who care for them, especially:

Pam Storey, Noel Smyth, Peter Addicoat CP, Denise Egan, Caroline Hagedorn, Patrick Connell (Brendan's father), Nancy Reynolds, Kata Lenic, Treenah Wadham, Jenny Wullings, Stephanie Snow, Graham Burke, Fr Brendan Lane, Maureen Barns, Lesley Yang, Rex Cambry, Marilyn Climi, Gerry Bond, Carol Battistella, Peter Barry, Bronwyn Burke, Alexander Lim, Zoe Chung and her daughter Sophia, Pam Gartland, Peter Owen, Bernadette Owen, Patricia Keeghan, Doris Castro, Julia Cantone, Rod Gorfine, Luke Norden, Greg Agosta, Helen McLean, Phil Drew, Bro Jerome, Caroline Meade, Rod Smith, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, and young Alfred Theodore in London. We pray to the Lord.

Mass on line

Chris will send the link for Sunday Mass, on Saturday afternoon.

God bless

Brian

