

# WONDER & AWE IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Come, Spirit of Wonder & Awe in God's Presence.

In the Bible we read that Moses took off his shoes at the burning bush because he realised that he was in the presence of God. That is why when we come to Church we genuflect before the Tabernacle, bow in front of the Altar and stand when the word of God is read, because we believe that God is present in the Church. This is another reason why we treat each other with respect and dignity, because God lives in each of us.

When we look around at our WONDER-ful world; we look up at the moon and the stars; when we see the beauty and power of the sea and the variety of animals, then we consider that God made all of this for us, for you and me to enjoy, what an AWE-some thought, and it gives us some idea of what God is like. Can you think of some way that you can help to respect this creation, what can you do?



Prayer:

We know that the Holy Spirit gives us His seven gifts to help us in our lives right here and now so we pray:

Creator God who made me and loves me just the way I am; send Your Holy Spirit to be my helper and guide.

Give me the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Right Judgement and Courage,

the Spirit of Knowledge and Reverence and fill us with the Spirit of Wonder and Awe in Your presence.

I ask this in the name of Jesus who is Your Son and my best friend. Amen.



## The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**1. WISDOM:** helps us see the world differently and from God's point of view.

**2. UNDERSTANDING:** enables us to know more clearly the mysteries of faith.

**3. COUNSEL [also known as Right Judgment]:** helps us to discern what is right and what is wrong.

**4. FORTITUDE [also known as Courage]:** strengthens our will so that we can actually accomplish what is true, good and beautiful.

**5. KNOWLEDGE:** enables us to discover God's will in all things.

**6. PIETY:** helps us to love God, our merciful Father, and to obey his precepts out of love for him.

**7. FEAR OF THE LORD [also known as Wonder and Awe]:** helps us to understand how we must depend on God for everything. In other words, he is God, we are not.

Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of Your faithful  
and enkindle in them the fire of Your Love.  
Send forth Your Spirit  
and they shall be created  
and You shall renew the face of the earth.

# WISDOM

Come, Spirit of Wisdom.

We read in the Bible that King Solomon was offered anything that he would like from God, and he asked for the gift of Wisdom so that he could guide the people as God would like.

Through the gift of Wisdom, we learn how to make good decisions which will benefit not just myself, but everyone else and even the environment.

If you could ask God for one thing what would it be? Would it be a new X-Box, or i-Phone - something for yourself. Or would you ask for something that would benefit everybody? What would you ask for?



# UNDERSTANDING

Come, Spirit of Understanding.

Through the gift of Understanding we come to know the mind and heart of God. So let the Spirit help you to understand God, yourself and others more & more.

When we have the gift of Understanding, we can really understand and know how much God loves us and everybody else, even people that may not seem very good, they are still God's children just like the Prodigal Son, whose father never stopped loving him, no matter what he did or where he was. Can you think of somebody that you have judged and made a decision about them without really knowing them or understanding them? What would change your mind about that person?



# RIGHT JUDGEMENT

Come Spirit of Right Judgement.

Through the gift of Right Judgment, and Wisdom, we can put into practice what is in the mind and heart of God.

Right Judgment helps us to see things and people as God sees them and not as others see them. Jesus was always found in the company of the poor, of lepers and of other people who society thought were not good company and were shunned and excluded. Can you think of somebody that you might know who is excluded? How do you think God feels about them? And what do you think God would like you to do about it?



# COURAGE

Come, Spirit of Courage.

When we have the gift of Courage, the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit which lives in you, will help you to stand up for what you really believe in, even when it is not the popular thing to do. So if you really don't want to do it...say it!

But don't think that it will be easy just because you have the Holy Spirit on your side, you still have to decide what to do and what to say. Sometimes your friends might call you names, sometimes you might feel lonely and on your own but the right thing for you is always the best thing to do, no matter how difficult, this is why we have the gift of Courage.



# KNOWLEDGE

Come, Spirit of Knowledge.

Through the gift of Knowledge we come to know God in our hearts just like a daughter knows her father or a son knows his mother; or best friends know and love each other.

When two people spend a lot of time together, when they are very close, it sometimes seems that they know what the other person is thinking; sometimes they say the same thing at the same time. Perhaps you are like this with your best friend or maybe you have seen your mam & dad like this. This is what it is like for us when we come close to God.

The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of knowing God - Knowledge - and we see God as God really is. Wow!!



# REVERENCE

Come, Spirit of Reverence.

Through the gift of reverence we give honour, respect and praise to God. But we also respect ourselves and all people, because we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Does that mean that we look like God, or that God looks like us? No! it means that God lives in each of us and that is why we respect each other.

Jesus told us to love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our strength and to love your neighbour - which means everybody - as though they were yourself. The gift of reverence helps us to do this. When we respect God, ourselves and each other, then we can really love each other. Why not give it a try...?

