



St Francis of Assisi Parish



## REFLECTION

### THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS

Jesus freely gave his life for all as the supreme and indisputable proof of His love for humans, the most precious and highly esteemed gift a man can make. Since His sacrifice, deeply religious Christians have intuited what Divine Love means through contemplation of the Cross under the influence of the Holy Spirit. This reality shows their spiritual life. The Cross became a magnetic pole and a centre of outreach. "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brethren... 1 John 3:16" Clearly, St. Padre Pio accepted the invitation with all its consequences and became an apostle and teacher of this message of crucified Love.

The mystery of the Cross in the Christian's life as well as in Christ's is of central transcendent and irreplaceable importance. The disciple cannot take any other way than the one pointed out by the Master, nor can he accept any other norm of life than the one the Master proclaimed. Christ, the Master, knew well that his norm would not be easy and would not give rise to enthusiasm. Yet He proclaims it categorically with vigour: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me... Matthew 16:24".

Let us follow the Lord.

God bless.

Fr Joseph Rathnaraj  
Parish Priest

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