



St Francis of Assisi Parish



## **REFLECTION**

### **ON PRAYER AGAIN**

**(based on St John Marie Vianney)**

A Christian's Treasure is not on earth but in heaven. Hence our thoughts are to be directed to where our Treasure is. The glorious duty of us is: to Pray and to Love. Our happiness lies in Prayer and in Love. Prayer is nothing else but union with God. When one has a pure heart united with God, then he or she is given a kind of peace and serenity and a sweetness that makes an ecstatic light that surrounds with marvellous brightness. In this intimate union, God and the soul are fused together like two bits of wax that no one can pull apart. The union of God with a tiny creature is a lovely thing. It is happiness beyond all understanding.

We are unworthy to pray ourselves but God in his goodness allows us to speak with him. The Spirit prays in us. Our prayer becomes an incense that gives him the greatest pleasure. Our hearts are small but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God. Through prayer we receive a foretaste of heaven and something of paradise comes down upon us. Prayer never leaves us without sweetness. It is like honey that flows into the soul and makes all things sweet. When we pray, sorrows disappear like snow melts before the sun. Prayer also makes time pass very quickly and will give a great delight that does not notice its length.

Some people immerse themselves as deeply in prayer as fish in water because they give themselves boldly to God. There is no division in their hearts. For example, St Francis of Assisi used to see our Lord and talk to him as we speak to one another. How unlike him we are? We come to Church with no idea of what to do or what to ask for. Yet when we go to any human being, we know well enough why we go. Still worse, we seem to speak to God like this: "I will only say a couple of things to you and then I will be rid of you." We should think when we come to adore the Lord, we would receive everything we ask for, if only we would ask with a living faith and with a pure and loving heart. So, let us pray this way.

God bless us all.

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Parish Priest

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