

## **Thought for the day – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**by Revd John Ohen**

### **Are you ready to take up your Cross?**

We are called to lay down our lives just as Jesus laid down his life for us.

The cross was Jesus' hour of glory, so we too are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

This is only if we are willing to die to ourselves in this way, will we know the joy of harvest in our lives.

The Cross reveals God's love, for as it makes it plain for all of us to see. St Rose of Lima once said that "The Cross is the only ladder that can take us to heaven". Jesus transforms everything, the Cross as an instrument of execution and death has become an instrument of life. Jesus did not shy away from his destiny, instead He recognised that in the Cross his "hour" had come, and that his whole life had been a journey to that moment. So much of Jesus teaching is taken from observing the natural world. A good example is that life is born from death. We all know that for a plant to grow, a seed must first be planted in the ground. Unless this happens, that seed remains only as a single seed, but if it is buried in the ground, then many seeds are produced. Jesus knew that his whole life was a preparation for his suffering and death upon the Cross. In the history of the whole world there has never been a more important death, because from his death the whole world will be saved. So let us continue to pray for the grace to understand the cross in a way as the source of all life, all blessing, and every grace.

**Prayer:** Let us pray that God will give us the grace and the wisdom to follow the path of the cross as the way, the truth, and life. Amen.

**Bible passage:** John' 12: 20 – 33.