

## Reflection Monday Week 13 – 2020

Prophets often spoke about the future, highlighting the misfortunes that would befall an unfaithful people with predictions that always came true. However, Prophets were the original *whistle-blowers*. They publicly proclaimed the failings and injustices of the leaders of the nation. They exposed the deplorable ways those in power abused the poor and needy, and squeezed taxes from the nation for their own gain in wealth and power. Most Prophets were unsuccessful, often brutally treated and imprisoned. Some even lost their lives. Amos was not a theologian; he was a farmer with little or no formal education. (So, any of us could follow in his footsteps!!) He even went to prophesy to an enemy nation – a recipe for failure but also a sign of the power of God to motivate, stimulate and encourage. Prophets today include those who expose the unjust and abusive treatment of our planet: James Hanson, Sir John Houghton, Nick Spencer, Robert White, Greta Thunberg etc. Their prophecies are coming true. There is reason to believe Covid 19 is a consequence of our mistreatment of the earth. Other injustices: racism, the unfair treatment of women in the workplace, the failure to support care homes throughout the pandemic, have all been brought to our attention. Prophets call people to return to God; call for repentance; call for a new way of living. Putting God first does not mean putting people second but treating them with greater respect and care, greater affirmation and support. It means living more simply, being less wasteful, preserving energy. We are called to love God, to love people, to love creation because we cannot do one without the other!

Pope Francis: *To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!*

***After thoughts . . . . .***

***A farmer counted 196 cows in his field. But when he rounded them up, he had 200.***

***Why should you never mention the number 288?***

***It's two gross.***