

## Reflection Friday Week 28 - 2020

As an introduction to our reading from Ephesians today it is written: *You have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit.* We put stamps on envelopes, the parish stamp embosses itself on paper in order to stand out. Although we are truly stamped with the Holy Spirit in baptism and again in Confirmation, it is much, much more than that. Being stamped with Holy Spirit is more like being remoulded, reshaped into something more beautiful, more loving, more gifted, into an enhanced image of God. This remoulding is reinforced because Jesus Christ has taken up residence in us and will not be moved or removed. In baptism we become temples of the Holy Spirit who will be part of everything we say, do or think - if we allow it. Even if we cease to practice or cease to believe, even if we turn against God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit will remain within us, not involuntarily, or because they are imprisoned, but willingly and lovingly, with a longing to be set free through acceptance and love. To show how precious we are to God, Jesus says; *'every hair on your head has been counted. There is no need to be afraid: you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.'* And for those who are bald, do not worry, because God can see all the places where hair used to be on your head!!!! Recognising and accepting the presence of God within us and responding to that presence, opens us to the joy, love and hope heard in our readings today. Reading God's word in scripture makes them spring to life within us so that we can better share them with all those we encounter.

### **A Prayer for Standing on Tiptoe. (MACRINA WIEDERKEHR)**

On tiptoe we stand, Lord Jesus  
eagerly awaiting  
your full revelation  
always expecting you  
to come some more.

Our hands and hearts  
are open to your grace.  
Our lives still waiting for  
the fullness of your presence.  
We are those who have been promised  
a Kingdom, and we can never forget.  
Yet we have a foot in both worlds  
and so, we stumble.

But still we stand on tiptoe.  
Owning our kingdom-loving hearts  
and our earth-eyes,  
we lean forward  
and hope!!

### **HOPE . . . . .**

20 years ago, we had Johnny Cash, Bob Hope, and Steve Jobs. Now we have no Cash, no Hope, and no Jobs. . . . . Please don't let Kevin Bacon die!

