

Reflection Thursday Week 13 2022

Just the other day Bishop Paul McAleenan confirmed 20 young candidates. They were filled with the power of the Spirit and his many gifts: Wisdom, Knowledge, Good Judgement, Understanding, that excellent gift of Wonder, Courage and a sense of Reverence for the Power and dignity of God. Like so many gifts with which God has blessed us they need to be used to be fully appreciated. If someone gave you a computer which you never turned on, it would just be a box. Fortunately, God tries many ways to stimulate his gifts in us. We can see them working in Amos who for much of his life never believed himself to be prophet. But, when the time came, he was ready to respond to what God asked of him, despite it being such a difficult task that caused him much suffering. Just as Amos was rejected so, too, was Jesus even though he came to help people both physically and spiritually. That the leaders were unable to recognise the goodness and love emanating from Jesus is sad. They seemed only able to find fault in him. Becoming angry at them for their rejection of Jesus would mean that we are no better than they are. On the contrary they should inspire us to work all the harder to be loving, caring and compassionate people who encourage, support and affirm others, and to point out the positive and the possibilities in people and in any situation.

Very simply: to be people of **Hope!!**