

Reflection Saturday Week 22 – 2023

St Paul appeals to us *to persevere and stand firm on the solid base of the faith, never letting yourselves drift away from the hope promised by the Good News*. Hope has been severely challenged in recent times and it is all too easy to fall into despair. But **Hope** is a signature feature of all Christians. Yesterday, we were reminded that Mary, who was asked to be the Mother of Jesus, Emmanuel, faced an initially impossible future. But, God arranged that Joseph, Elizabeth and her parents came to her rescue. This is a clear reminder that God never asks the impossible from us and however bleak or unmanageable the future may appear to be, God will see us through and better than we can ever imagine.

Pope Francis: Hope enables us to trust in Christ's promises, to trust in the power of his love, his forgiveness, his friendship. That love opens the door to new life. Whenever you experience a problem, a setback, a failure, you must anchor your heart in that love.

Hope is the virtue which goes places. It has an end, a goal which is practical and lights up our way. . . .

Hope is a path taken with others. An African proverb says: *"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go with others."* Isolation and aloofness never generate hope; but closeness to others and encounter do. Left to ourselves, we will go nowhere. . . .

Hope is a path of solidarity. . . . Beyond all other considerations or interests, there has to be concern for that person who may be my friend, my companion, but also someone who may think differently than I do, someone with his own ideas yet just as human . . . as I am.