

Reflection for the Week: 6th -13th December, 2020

Continuing the series on the Advent Wreath...

On the wreath, the **Second Candle is lit to recall the Prophets**; the people who heard from God and spoke God's wisdom to the people of God. Often this role was costly as it involved speaking truth to power, or to people who didn't want to hear God's message. There were false prophets in Israel, as well as faithful spiritual leaders (shepherds) who looked after the people.

The prophets include biblical characters like Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, etc. The prophets were a tough bunch. They were not merely conduits for God's words, but were called to live out these words and the experiences of the Lord's people. Prophets knew within themselves both the urgency of the message of God's judgement, and the reluctance of God's people to receive that message.

A good example of this empathetic suffering is found in the prophet Jeremiah. He expresses a mixture of emotions; he feels God's anger, compassion and frustration. But simultaneously, he suffers within himself the effects of the people's refusal to accept God's word. Jeremiah expresses the anguish he feels:

O that my head were a spring of water,
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of my poor people!
(Jer. 9:1)

The prophetic role deeply feels the compassion and forgiveness of God and also the rebellion of the world. Prophets live with the tension and conflict between God and his people. God gives the prophetic gift to his Church today.

To reflect: *Pray for God to send his prophetic gifts among us.*

Think about people who, in your estimation, speak honestly despite the cost, and are unafraid to tell people about the truth of God's Good News. Pray for God's protection over them and their families.