

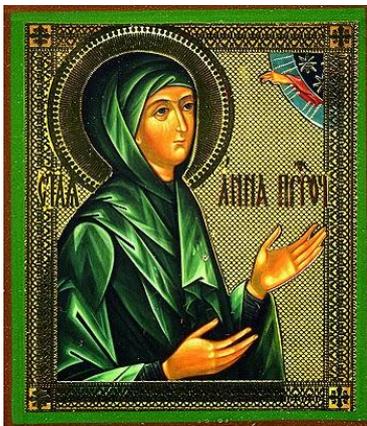
Who would want to be a prophet?

Today's Gospel reports Jesus as saying:

"A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house."

Whilst the first reading from the prophet Ezekiel tells us,

"Whether they listen or not, there is a prophet among them."



Anna



Ezekiel

Prophets are seen as individuals who are regarded as being close to God and are said to speak on God's behalf, serving as an intermediary with humanity by delivering messages or teachings from God to other people. This is not just something that happened in the past.

In recent years and still so today, we have other prophets in our midst. These are people who speak to us in ways that perhaps make us uncomfortable because they speak the truth.

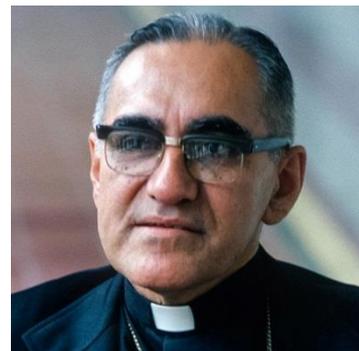
Most people will agree that the images below show modern day prophets whose words concerning poverty, stewardship, workers' rights, sharing of the earth's resources and our common humanity speak to our heart:



Pope Francis

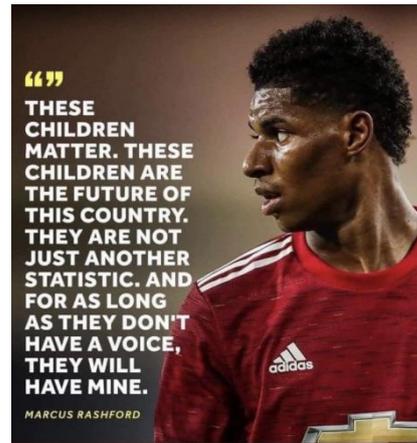


Dorothy Day



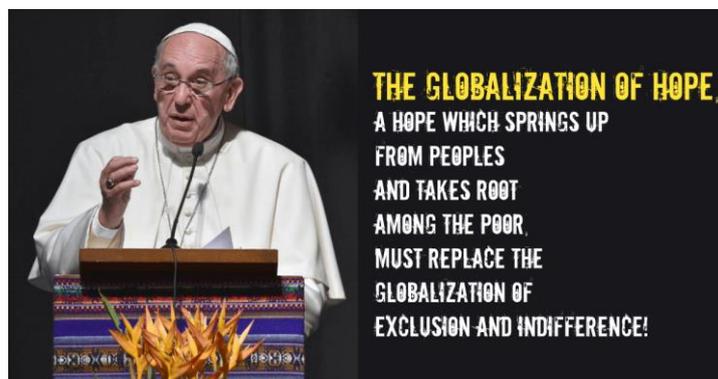
Oscar Romero

But what about these people below? Do we value what they say to us? Do we see them as speaking a truth that we need to hear?



“Prophecy is born whenever we allow ourselves to be challenged by God, not when we are concerned to keep everything quiet and under control.”

*Pope Francis
July 22 2020*



O the word of my Lord deep within my being, Oh the word of my Lord, You have filled my mind.

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you through and through, I chose you to be mine.
Before you left your mother's side I called to you, my child, to be my sign.*

*I know that you are very young, but I will make you strong I'll fill you with my word;
And you will travel through the land, fulfilling my command which you have heard.*

*And everywhere you are to go my hand will follow you; you will not be alone.
In all the danger that you fear you'll find me very near, your words my own.*

Lord, help us to recognise the prophets in our midst, to listen to them and let them show us God's path for us.