

## **Reflections on 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year 26A.**

*Mass: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 68; Romans 5:12-15; Matthew 10:26-33.*

Speaking out is not an easy thing to do, even in our liberal world. It is notorious just the kind of abuse that can happen through social media across the world. The more we desire a free and liberal world the more we seem to be unleashing forces in our world that we find uncomfortable and even dangerous. Prophets had a kind of licence to speak out in the dangerous world of the old covenant. It was what they were expected to do in order to make things happen. If they were true prophets, then their words were powerful. Jesus takes on that role and begins a band of prophets just like his predecessors did, including John the Baptist. It is fairly clear that Jesus of Nazareth began as a prophet in the band of the Baptist, determined to complete his message. St. Paul tells us that Jesus was a true prophet because his word was fulfilled in an even greater way, in fact, he was the Word because his Word brought the Divine Grace that destroyed death itself. We are part of the prophetic band of Jesus. So much a part that we are a part of his very being, his Body. What does being a prophet through Jesus mean for us? The first challenge is to speak the truth. That's where our faith comes in, it is the truth. It is the foundation on which everything is built. We can't shout from the rooftops what we don't really believe. Is it just a nice story, that just might be true! Or is it the bedrock of our lives? Do we know it, understand it and live it? That's the challenge, declaring my faith in Jesus in the presence of others, then I will be my Father's child, like Jesus.