

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

*1<sup>st</sup> Week of Year. Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Readings: 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Psalm: 115; Gospel: Mark 1:14-20.*

This time is known as ‘ordinary’, it means the basic and underlying liturgical process of forming disciples as Church. Advent and Christmastide is the wake-up and encounter time. It appears now but goes ‘underground’ from Lent until the end of Easter and the fulfilment of the Paschal Mystery. It is the time of vision but even more importantly of hearing the call, just like Mary, the shepherds and even the magi. Now at this Ordinary Time catechesis really begins as we listen and engage with the Word in the midst of a community of faith, hope and love. This means not just listening but being like Simon, Andrew, James, and John, ready to say yes and begin a journey. They begin the new community of faith we call the Church, those who are ‘called out’. Our first reading tells us that it has to begin with a relationship of love. It is not a political ideology or some kind of power grab. It begins as a family built on solidarity with one another.