

Thoughts on the Daily Word

1st Week of Year. Tuesday 13th January. Readings: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Psalm: 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8; Gospel: Mark 1:21-28.

Authority derives from the word ‘authenticity’. Right from the beginning Jesus speaks with authenticity. Who he really is matters because of that authenticity Jesus knows who he is, the Son of the Father. In the first stage of the liturgical year, we discover a God who is calling us, giving us a vision not only of the world but a vision of just who we are. We are back to the dream that God has for us and has planted in our very being. Encounter always draws something of ourselves out, leading us to discover something new within us. This is the bedrock of Advent and Christmas Time. In Ordinary Time the Catechumenal stage moves us forward in our Christian growth. Our development, the unfolding of who we are demands a community formation time. To be more precise, it demands a community to make that dream come true! Just as our family makes it possible for our biological and social identity to grow, so the community we call Church is needed to fulfil the dream that God has for us. In the context of the Temple at Shiloh Hannah discovers a relationship with God that allows her to open up to the work of God. In Mark’s Gospel today the authentic Jesus heals the broken or ‘unclean’ person, beginning the journey of making them whole again. That too is our journey, it never stops.