

The first day of the first week of Ordinary time leaves us with no surprises as to why we have the readings we do.

Hebrews is addressed to the Hebrew Christians establishing Jesus Christ as a more perfect fulfilment of all that the Hebrew people had tried to be. Today the writer recalls how God had worked with them in the past and in particular, that the age of the prophets had ended. God's communication to his people is now the role of Jesus Christ whose words and life speak so much and, as well, he continues to breathe the Spirit into the Church to guide its direction as children of the Heavenly Father. As such, the Church is not like what they say about the Latin language – it is not a 'dead language' nor does it have a 'dead message'. The Church is alive and continues to grow and to develop as it changes to meet our changing world.

It was with a sense of life that Jesus began his public mission after John had been arrested. John brought the age of the prophets to an end. Jesus gave a new proclamation that the Kingdom of God is close at hand. He called for people to repent – to turn more to God. The urgency was based upon giving new hope and new direction to the people whom God loved. Of course, it must be urgent. What is there to wait for?

This was certainly the response of the first four disciples whom Jesus called. They were good listeners. Let's hope we can be too.