

**01.14.2019 – Monday First Week of Ordinary Time – Homily**

**Heb 1:1-6**

**Mk 1:14-20**

Today we begin the weekdays of Ordinary Time. The church calls Ordinary Time everything that is not Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. If Advent and Christmas focus on the birth, infancy and childhood of Jesus, and Lent and Easter focus on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, the focus of Ordinary Time is the public ministry of Jesus. The gospel reading for today, the Monday of the first week of Ordinary Time, is the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus according to Mark. Jesus began his public ministry by proclaiming the good news from God.

What was that good news from God? Jesus expresses this good news very briefly, ‘The time has come, and the kingdom of God is close at hand, Repent, and believe the good news’.

The good news Jesus announced gave rise to his basic call, which remains his basic call to all of us today, ‘believe the good news’. In the midst of so much bad news at times, we need to believe Jesus’ good news and hold on to it.

The meeting that Peter, Andrew, James and John had with Jesus in this morning’s gospel was such a good news event, because the reign of God, the power of God, was present to them in the person of Jesus. That power of God present in Jesus to Peter, Andrew, James and John was the power of love, a love that called on them to repent, to turn towards God, a love that promised forgiveness, healing, acceptance, a love that gave them a mission in life.

Today the kind of meeting that Peter, Andrew, James and John had with Jesus is offered to each one of us. Jesus is not just a figure of history who belongs to the past. He is a living Lord, present in his church and in the world today. He is constantly calling us to meet with him in and

through our daily lives. His call is always a call to become more loving, more generous, less self-centered and self-regarding.

He meets with us and speaks to us through the Sacraments. In particular the Eucharist, through the Scriptures, from deep within our own hearts, through other people, through nature.

Do I hear the call to mission?

Do I hear the call to be good news for others, to be the Lord's body in the world, his feet, his hands, his mouth, his eyes, his ears?

So, like Peter, Andrew, James and John, in the gospel reading, we are to go forth as messengers of this good news to others.

**Let us pray:**

"Lord Jesus, thank You for the extraordinary life of grace you have called me to live. You have called me personally by name in and through my daily life, just as you called your first disciples, Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Help me to believe your word and follow you faithfully in spreading your Good News and becoming your feet, your hands, your mouth, your eyes and ears to others. Fill me with the joy of the gospel that your light may shine through me to many others."

**Jesus, I trust in you.**