

Tuesday 14 January

Today is Tuesday the 14 January, in the First Week of Ordinary Time.

The Kiev Chamber Choir sing the Creed. ?I believe in one God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.? As I start this prayer today, can I join in with this strong, almost exuberant expression of faith? Can I begin by declaring my faith in my God, my creator, my heavenly Father?

Today?s reading is from the Gospel of Mark.

A man possessed of an unclean spirit would probably be thought of today as a madman who shouts obscenities in a public place. How do you think the people in the synagogue might have reacted to this man, and to what Jesus does?

What struck the people was that Jesus taught with authority - he actually backed his words with actions. In your life do you have areas where you believe and say one thing, but don?t back your words with actions? - maybe in areas like helping those in need, or living a more environmentally friendly life?

As you listen to the reading again, imagine the scene as vividly as you can ? the tones of voice, the postures, the looks on people?s faces?

What desire do you have to speak and act as Jesus did, with that kind of integrity and authority? In the closing moments of this prayer time, talk this over with the Lord, asking perhaps for the gift, the grace to practise what you believe.