

Wednesday 15 January

Today is Wednesday the 15 January, in the first week of Ordinary time.

The monks of Pluscarden Abbey sing: Ego vos elegi ?I have chosen you out of the world, so that you might go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last.? As I listen to this chant, I remind myself that God calls me, calls me by my name. However unsuitable or unworthy I may think I am, God has chosen me.

Today?s reading is from the First Book of Samuel.

Eli, the old holy man has a new young assistant, Samuel, but it takes the wisdom of the old man to let the young man know that God is speaking directly to him. God speaks directly to each one of us. When have I felt that God was saying something to me?

God has traditionally been seen as speaking in dreams, imagination, convictions, feelings ? so many different ways ? and not as a booming voice from heaven, but when thoughts come to mind that bring life, enthusiasm, virtues, love and goodness. Can I recognise God speaking to me in these ways?

Sometimes I may find it hard to believe, given the immensity of the universe, that any creator of such unimaginable vastness could be interested in relatively insignificant me. But as I hear the story again, I might reflect that showing interest in a single individual is exactly what God does here.

It might be a good time now, in the quiet of your heart, to speak those words of Samuel: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening", then don't force any answer ? be still and wait for a reply.