

Reflection Friday Week 6 2023

The writers of Genesis had very fertile imaginations: Noah, the tower of Babel. At least we know who to blame for all the different languages in the world???? However, language is meant for communication. The Church communicates with difficulty because of the language it uses to do this. Do we stop to think that the way God chose to communicate with us was through Jesus? *God's Word became flesh*. Being present and, being the life force of every person on earth, God continues to speak to us through the people we encounter every day. Maybe that is why the Synodal preparation stressed the importance of **listening**. Possibly the question is not about the faithful learning the language of the Church but the Church learning the language of the faithful. In the synodal preparation and responses it is clear that the body of the Church is crying out to be heard!

Archbishop John Wilson Simply and sincerely, we want to do our best for the Lord and for each other. We listen, first and foremost to the Lord, to the best of our ability. We listen respectfully and generously to each other, to the best of our ability. We discern how to fulfil the missionary mandate given us by the Lord Jesus, to the best of our ability. We look to serve others, in particular the weakest and the poorest, and those on the fringes of our Church and society, to the best of our ability. We really do want to do the best we can. And we really do want to see the best in each other, in our Church, and in our world. The Lord Jesus prayed to his Father: 'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.' When we give our very best to the Lord, the word and work of his grace carries us forward. His loving kindness elevates us beyond our limited human abilities.

My neighbours are always listening to loud music whether they want to or not.

A young boy is listening to the radio in the car with his father.

"Dad, what music did you like growing up?"

Father: *"I was a huge fan of Led Zeppelin."*

"Who?" the son asks.

"Yeah," dad responds, *"I liked them too."*