

Reflection Friday Week 27 – 2023

The Synod of the Laity began in Rome on Wednesday the feast of St Francis of Assisi. One of the key words in its preparation was *Listening*. This is very much the theme of our readings today. Baruch addresses a people who have not listened to God and makes it plainly clear to them that they are courting disaster. Jesus asks us to listen to the call of the Good News and in welcoming it we welcome Christ. What is striking is that he gives the authority of the Good News to his disciples and asks us to listen to them as if we were listening to Jesus.

The Bishops, gathered in Rome for the synod, are also asked to listen to what the laity have said in preparation for the synod and now to listen to each other. There are many desires and expectations hoped for from this meeting. Some have sounded warning bells even before it began. It is difficult to listen if we are fixed on our own agenda. Let us pray the prayer of the synod daily and pray that all who await the findings of the synod will be open to the Spirit of God and not the spirit of their own selfish desires.

Today is the feast of St Bruno who inspired the founding of the Carthusian order in which hermits have chosen to live in community and pray together while retaining the solitude to be with God. Bruno listened to the call of the Spirit may he help us and the whole Church hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to us through the synod.