





Father, we thank you for the love you have shown us  
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.

We thank you for the gift of the Church,  
through which you show us that you are always with us  
and are always at work in our lives.

As we journey together to Synod 2020  
help us to become the Church that you are calling us to be.  
May your Holy Spirit be powerfully at work among us.  
Strengthen each of us and guide Francis, our Pope  
and Malcolm, our Archbishop.

Help us to respond  
to the challenges of our times in new ways  
to bring your love to all our sisters and brothers.  
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
**AMEN**



# Our Time Together

What the Synod is about – listening & discerning together

Listening & Learning – the ‘Apostolate of the Ear’

Compassionate or Deep listening

The ‘talking piece’ & FOUR INTENTIONS

Synod questions

Closing prayer



“Over the next two years we will be trying to discover the will of God through listening and learning. The voice of each one of us needs to be heard.

I hope that there will be many different opportunities for all of our people to share their hopes, their fears and their dreams of the way the Holy Spirit is at work among us to bring fresh life into our Church.”

Archbishop McMahon's pastoral Letter  
Synod Sunday October 2018



“Pope Francis gives us inspired leadership to take us into the future.



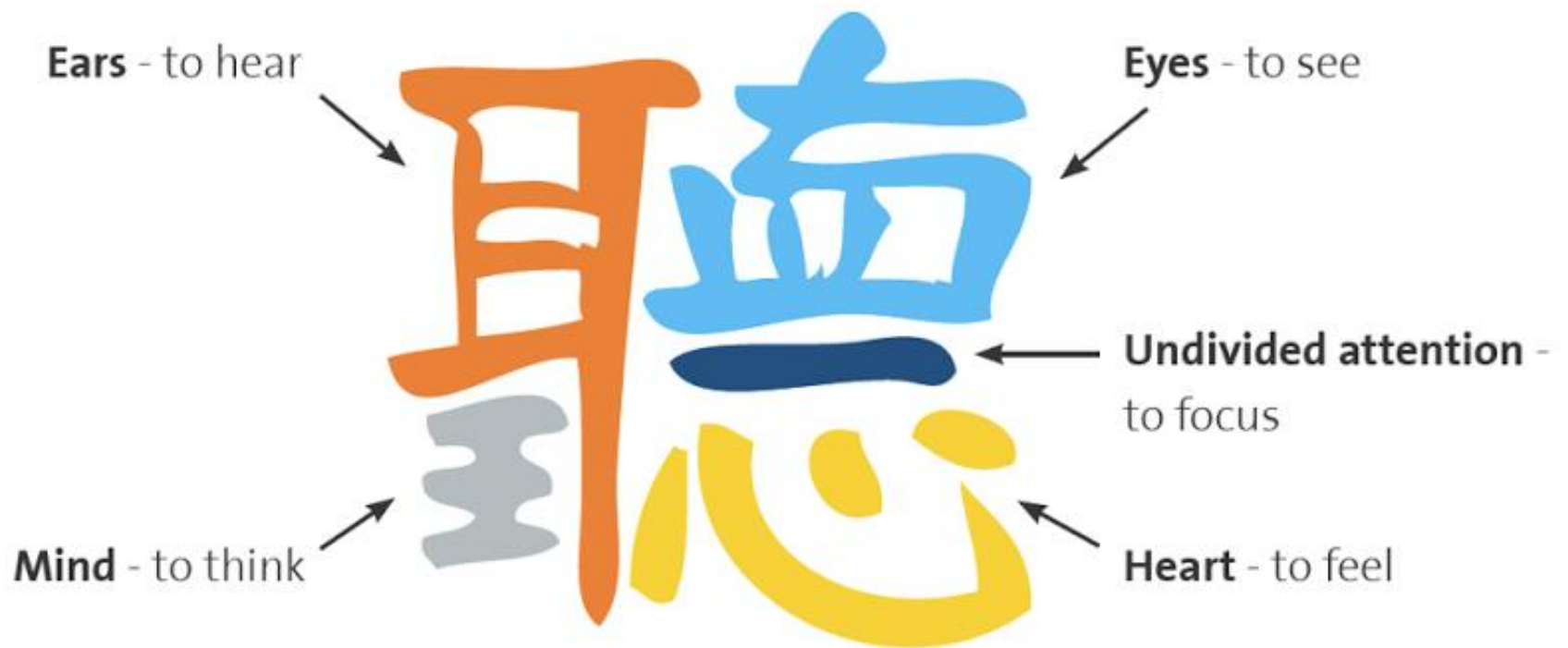
He has stated that he sees Synodality as the Way for the Church in the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium.”

Archbishop McMahon, 3 February 2019



This is the first step  
in helping the  
journey of faith:  
listening.

It is the  
**apostolate of the ear:**  
listening before  
speaking.



*‘The gift of being a compassionate listener, a gift which requires constant practice, is perhaps the most healing gift anyone can possess, for it allows the other to be, enfolds them in a safe space, does not judge or advise them, accepts them as they are without desiring to change them, and communicates support at a level deeper than words.’*

*Gerard W. Hughes SJ in “Cry of Wonder”*

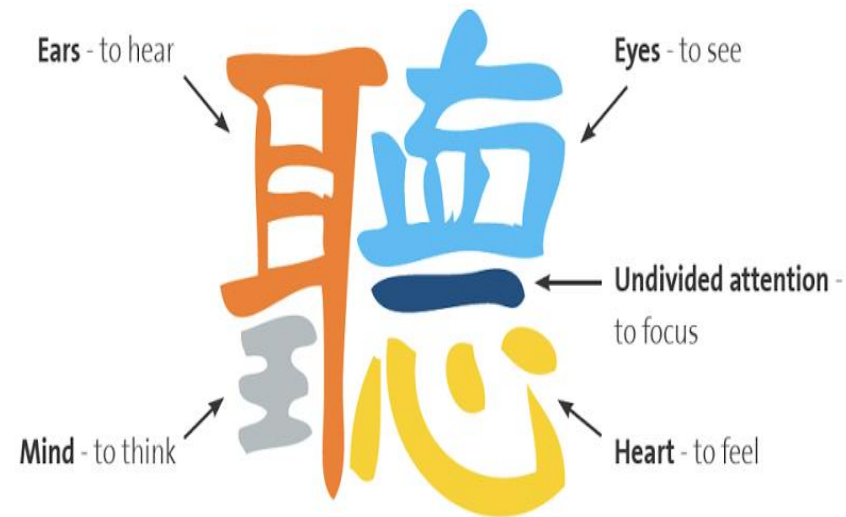
# THE FOUR INTENTIONS

**SPEAK FROM THE HEART**

**LISTEN FROM THE HEART**

**BE LEAN OF EXPRESSION**

**BE SPONTANEOUS**



*[(Adapted from Llysfasi Spirituality Workshop & 'The Way of Council')]*

## ***The Group Session***

The use of the **‘talking piece’**:  
only the person holding the  
talking piece is allowed to speak.



The first person to speak will then pass on the talking piece  
in a clockwise direction.

Each person shares, in turn, from his or her own experience  
of the Synod question.

Each of the other group members honour what is shared  
by receiving it in silence and without comment.

## ***The Group Session***



Another person shares.

This procedure is repeated until every group member has spoken, once only. *Group members may choose to accept the talking piece but simply hold it without speaking.*

The group has finished when each person has shared.

The group is responsible for ensuring that each person has time to share.

Each person accepts responsibility for the depth and detail of his/her own sharing.

Teach me to listen, O God, to myself.  
Help me to be less afraid to trust the voice inside  
— in the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit, for your voice —  
in busyness and in boredom, in certainty and  
doubt, in noise and in silence.  
Teach me, Lord, to listen.



Teach me to listen, O God, to those nearest me,  
my family, my friends, my co-workers.  
Help me to be aware that no matter what words I  
hear, the message is:  
“Accept the person I am. Listen to me.”

Teach me to listen, my caring God, to those far  
from me— the whisper of the hopeless, the plea of  
the forgotten, the cry of the anguished. Amen

John Veltri S.J.





Where, in your everyday life,  
do you experience love, truth,  
goodness, hope and joy?



**2. When you reflect on your life now,  
and as you look to the future, what  
causes you concern or worry?**



### 3. What is the purpose of the Catholic Church in the world today?



**4. Having reflected on these things,  
what are the topics you would like to  
see on the agenda of Synod 2020?**



# SPENDING TIME WITH GOD: THE PRAYER OF EXAMEN

Become still

Be aware of your breathing

Be thankful for the gift of life

Ask for God's light as you look back over this time together

What am I most grateful for?

What has been difficult?

Speak to God "as one friend speaks to another"

Ask God for the gifts and graces you most need.



