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The Synod of Bishops on “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church” was held in Rome in late 2008. It was often described as a Synod on the Bible, but it was about more than the Bible. It was about the ways in which God communicates to us in his living Word, Jesus Christ crucified and risen.

We are a people of the Word rather than a people of the Book. Yet the Book, the Bible, remains fundamental to our experience of the Word; and the Synod made it clear that we have to become a more biblical Church. A new listening to the Word of God has to become the matrix of all that we are and do as the Church.

The Synod was keen to stress the need for *everyone* in the Church to enter more deeply into the experience of praying the Scriptures, and to do this so that we can find new energy for new mission. This is something that recent Popes have stressed – that the praying of Scripture is a key to the future of the Church. And it is a call that needs to echo powerfully among us here in the Archdiocese.

The Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission has produced a number of sections in a Compendium to help those of all ages reflect on God’s Word. CatholicLIFE is responsible for its presentation and publication. The style of prayer chosen for the prayer leaflets is *Lectio Divina*, literally *divine reading*. This will be a help in responding to the summons I have already made – that every meeting in the Archdiocese be linked to the Scriptures: listening, silence, our response. As the Synod Fathers said: “Let the Word echo within you as the day begins, so that God may have the first word, and let it echo within you at day’s end, so that the last word may be God’s”. I commend the Compendium to you.

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