

Prayers

Dear Lord Jesus, how can I ever thank You enough? In the face of such determined and sacrificial love, my paltry and vacillating love seems so unworthy. Teach me to love You as You love me. Help me to be both able and willing to understand the costliness of real love as You do. In Your holy name I humbly come, kneel at Your feet, and pray!

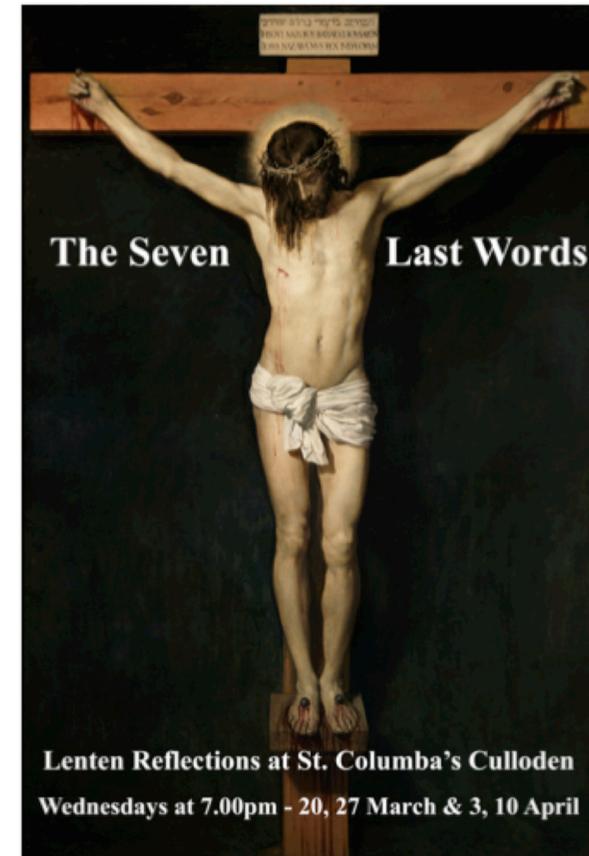
In Your words “I am thirsty” I hear the cry of my own heart. I too am thirsty, Lord, but not for physical drink. I do not need sour wine. Rather, I need the new wine of Your kingdom to flood my soul. I need to be refreshed by Your living water. I yearn for your Spirit to fill me once again. I am thirsty, Lord, for you. Amen.



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Hymn
Period of Prayer and Personal Reflection
Benediction
The Divine Praises
Reposition & Final Hymn**

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Fourth and Fifth Words



St. Columba's, Culloden

Wednesday 3 April 2019

The Fourth Word

**“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”
(Mark 15:34)**

- ❖ The only Word that appears in more than one Gospel. There is a real tone of anguish.
- ❖ The Fourth Word of Jesus is the opening line of Psalm 22. His cry from the Cross recalls the cry of Israel.
- ❖ Psalm 22 makes the striking prophecy of the crucifixion of the Messiah at a time when crucifixion was not known to exist. – “They tear holes in my hands and my feet and lay me in the dust of death.”
- ❖ At the end of the Psalm, the general mood is not so much of despair, but of trusting confidence in God.
- ❖ How do we deal with the ‘dark hours’ in our own lives? Do we feel that the Lord has forsaken us?

For Personal Reflection

1. What is the significance of Mark 15:34 including a quotation from Psalm 22?
2. In what sense was Jesus forsaken?
3. What can I learn from this encounter on the cross?
4. Talk to Jesus now, and tell him what is in your heart.

The Fifth Word

“I thirst.” (John 19:28)

- ❖ On the most obvious level, this is a request for something to drink. Dehydration: loss of blood and sweat.

“Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty”. A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop stick, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.” (John 19: 28-29).
- ❖ “I thirst” = fulfilment of Scripture:
 - Psalm 69
 - John 4:4-26 (Samaritan woman at the well).
 - Exodus 12:21-22 (Hyssop with blood of the Passover lamb sprinkled on the doorposts).
- ❖ God thirsts for our love – is it reciprocated? Often, we thirst for the wrong things
- ❖ Cf. Psalm 42; Psalm 63

For Personal Reflection

1. What difference would it make if Jesus were a divine person who didn’t actually suffer on the cross?
2. What difference would it make if Jesus were only a human being martyred on the cross?
3. What does this Word teach me about Jesus?