

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, even as you once entrusted your spirit into the hands of the Father, so I give my life to you. I trust you, and you alone, to be my Saviour. I submit to your sovereignty over my life, and seek to live for your glory alone. Here I am, Lord, available to you, both now and in the future.

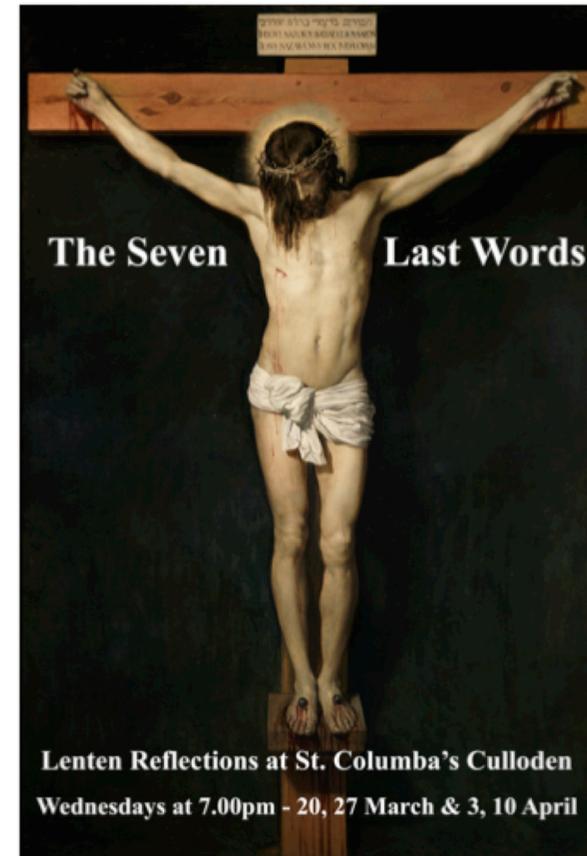
How good it is to know, dear Lord, that the cross was not the end for you! As you entrusted your spirit into the Father's hands, you did so in anticipation of what was to come. So I reflect upon your death, not in despair, but in hope.



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Hymn
Period of Prayer and Personal Reflection
(Opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
Benediction
The Divine Praises
Reposition & Final Hymn**

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Sixth and Seventh Words



St. Columba's, Culloden

Wednesday 10 April 2019

The Sixth Word

“It is finished.”
(John 19:30)

- ❖ The sixth word, or expression, of Jesus on the cross is traditionally called “The Word of Triumph”.
- ❖ “These last words are seen as a cry of victory, not of dereliction. Jesus had now completed what he came to do. A plan was fulfilled; a salvation was made possible; a love shown. He had taken our place.” (Adam Hamilton)
- ❖ *What “is finished”?* See the original and compelling interpretation put forward by American biblical scholars: Scott Hahn, *The Fourth Cup: Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross*
Brant Pitre, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper*
- ❖ The Cup of Suffering: Jesus drinks deeply from it:
 - physical pain;
 - emotional angst;
 - spiritual distress;
 - doubt about whether his work would continue..

For Personal Reflection

1. What cup do *you* have to drink in your life?
2. Do you live as if Jesus finished the work of salvation?
3. Talk to Jesus now, and tell him what is in your heart.

The Seventh Word

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”
(Luke 23:46)

- ❖ This seventh and final word, or expression, is traditionally called “The Word of Reunion”. It is the proclamation of Jesus joining God the Father in Heaven.
- ❖ “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”. The ‘model of prayer’ for us in difficult moments. Cf. Psalm 30.
- ❖ Jesus continually tries to carry out the will of the Father; he gives himself completely to the Father from the cross. We are called to do the same: total self-surrender.
- ❖ Whatever tragedies we have to endure, whatever crosses we have to carry, Jesus understands what we are going through. We are never alone.
- ❖ The Seven Last Words invite us to come to know Jesus more deeply; they reveal him to us more fully.

For Personal Reflection

1. Imagine you witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus – without knowing what would happen next. How do you feel?
2. How do you experience God’s salvation through Christ in your life today?
3. Which of the Seven Last Words have been most powerful for you, on a spiritual level? Why?