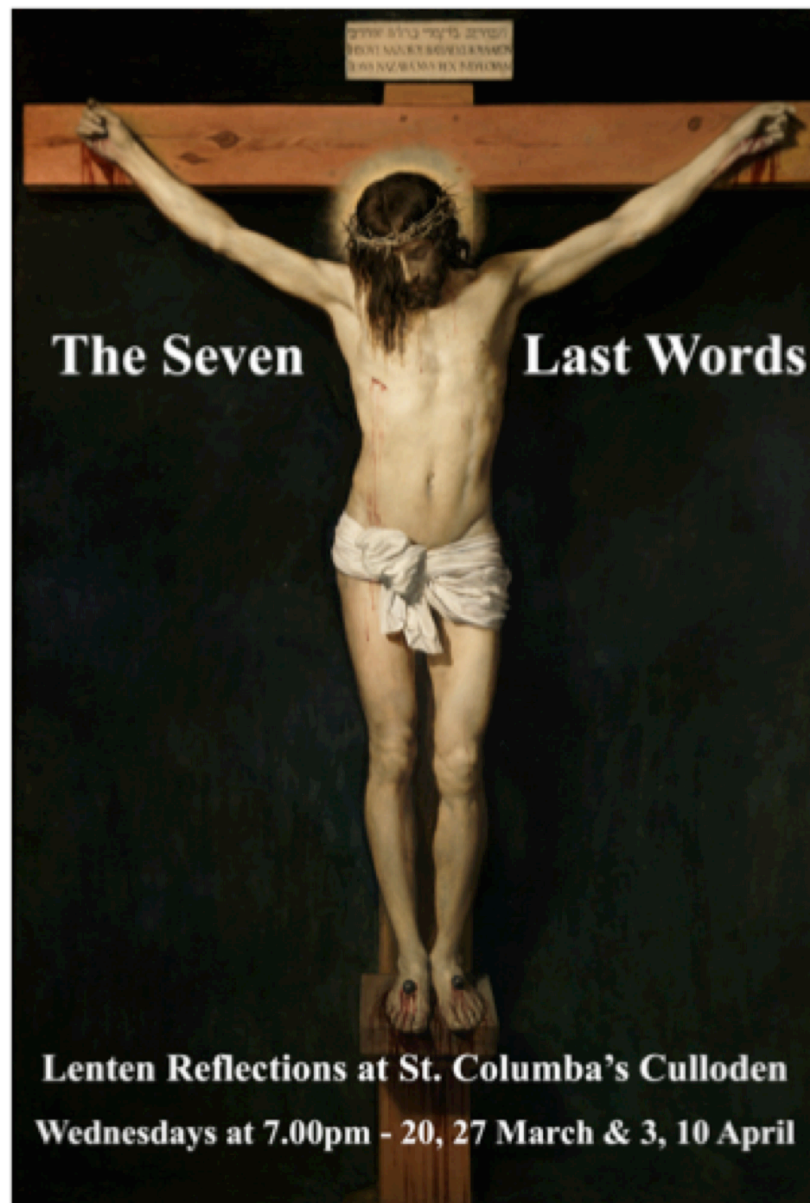


The Seven Last Words of Christ

Introduction and First Word



St. Columba's, Culloden

Wednesday 20 March 2019

Development of the Devotion

Why are the Words are so important?

What *are* the Seven Last Words?

1. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23: 34)
2. "Today you will be with me in paradise."
(Luke 23: 43)
3. "Woman, Behold your son.. Behold your mother." (John 19:26)
4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
(Mark 15:34)
5. "I thirst." (John 19:28)
6. "It is finished." (John 19:30)
7. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."
(Luke 23:46)

Why are there *Seven* Last Words?

"To many, the Passion of Jesus Christ is a lesson in history where we sympathize with Christ for the sufferings he went through before he died. We find it hard to believe how the people can be so cruel as to inflict the most severe form of pain on a man who we know was innocent. For Christians the Passion should be more than a lesson in history. It should become a lesson in life, teaching us how to stand up for truth and justice." – Pope Francis

The First Word

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23: 34)

- ❖ How could Jesus forgive?
- ❖ *Why* is it *so* difficult for us to forgive?
- ❖ Imagine if Jesus did *not* forgive.
- ❖ “Father, forgive *them..*” – *To whom* is Jesus referring?
- ❖ Right up to his final hours on earth, Jesus preaches forgiveness.
- ❖ Contemporary Examples.
- ❖ Experiencing Forgiveness...
- ❖ ... and Offering Forgiveness.

For Personal Reflection

1. Do I really believe that God has forgiven me my sins?
2. Do I take time to confess my sins so that I might enjoy the freedom of forgiveness?
3. Is there anyone who needs *my* forgiveness?
4. Talk to Jesus now, and tell him what is in your heart.

Prayer

Gracious Lord Jesus, it's easy for me to speak of your forgiveness, even to ask for it and to thank you for it. But do I really believe I'm forgiven? Do I experience the freedom that comes from the assurance that you have cleansed me from my sins? Or do I live as if I'm "semi-forgiven"? Even though I've put my faith in you and confessed my sins, do I live as sin still has power over me? Do I try to prove myself to you, as if I might be able to earn more forgiveness?

Dear Lord, though I believe at one level that you have forgiven me, this amazing truth needs to penetrate my heart in new ways. Help me to know with fresh conviction that I am fully and finally forgiven, not because of anything I have done, but because of what you have done for me.

Lord Jesus, help me also to live this spirit of forgiveness in my own life; give me the strength to forgive those who have wronged me, in any way. Allow me to heal through your love.

May I live today as a forgiven – and a forgiving – person, opening my heart to you, choosing not to sin because the power of sin has been broken by your salvation.

All praise and glory be to you, Lord Jesus, for your unending, loving forgiveness! Amen.



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