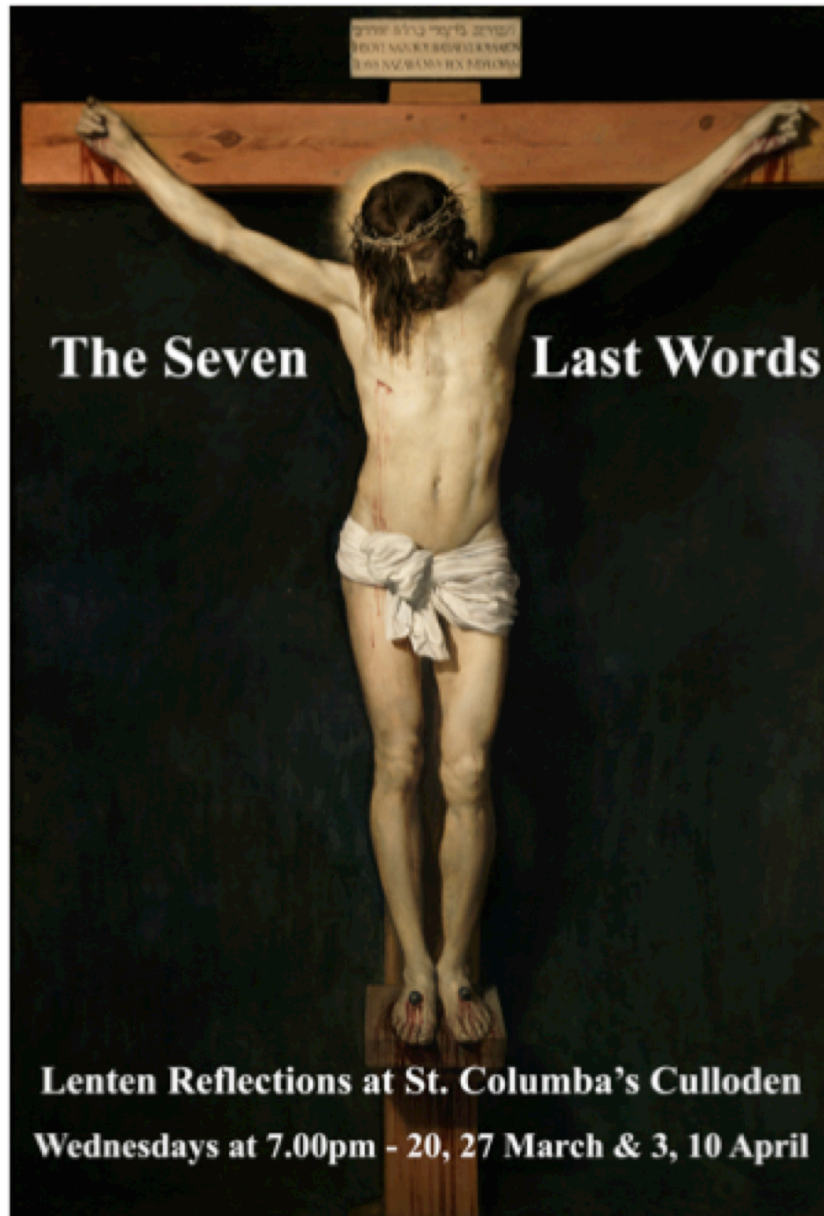


# **The Seven Last Words of Christ**

## **Second and Third Words**



**St. Columba's, Culloden**

**Wednesday 27 March 2019**

## The Second Word

**“Today you will be with me in paradise.”  
(Luke 23: 34)**

- ❖ The Word of Salvation – a downwards movement.
- ❖ Jesus’ reply is astounding: paradise – *garden* – the new Adam.
- ❖ Dismas (apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus).
- ❖ Matthew/Mark: *lestai* (robbers) vs. Luke: *kakourgoi* (criminals).
- ❖ Dismas’ extraordinary conversion: the greatest theft of all time. It is also OUR conversion; his story is OUR story.
- ❖ Evelyn Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited* – Lord Marchmain’s deathbed conversion.
- ❖ Dismas’ experience is the inspiration and hope of every one of us.

### For Personal Reflection

1. Can I imagine myself in Dismas’ position?
2. How do I feel when I hear those words of Jesus:  
“Today you will be with me in paradise.”?
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 Third Word**

**“Woman, Behold your son.. Behold your mother”  
(John 19:26)**

- ❖ The Word of Relationship. One of the most tender scenes.
- ❖ The humanity of Jesus, who is filled with loving concern, as a devoted son.
- ❖ Mary’s Suffering – part of the Seven Sorrows.
- ❖ Mary as the new Eve, who overturns the disobedience in the Garden with her Ave.
- ❖ John symbolises all of humanity.
- ❖ Cf. *Lumen Gentium*, nn. 61-62.
- ❖ Mary as Mother of the Church. Mary as *my* Mother.

### **For Personal Reflection**

1. What does Mary’s presence at the foot of the cross evoke in me?
2. Of all the disciples, why do you think John is at the cross?
3. What does this Third Word teach me about Jesus?
4. What are the implications of Jesus’ Third Word for my own personal (family) relationships?
5. To what extent do I see Mary as *my* Mother?

## Prayers

Dear Lord Jesus, how I wonder at your grace and mercy! When I cry out to you, you hear me. When I ask you to remember me when you come into your kingdom, you offer the promise of paradise to me. Your mercy, dear Lord, exceeds anything I might ever imagine. It embraces me, encourages me, heals me.

O Lord, though my situation is apparently quite different from that of Dismas, there are similarities: I am a spiritual thief! Today I live, trusting in you and you alone. My life, now and in the world to come, is in your hands. And so I pray: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom! Jesus, remember me today, as I seek to live within your kingdom!

Lord Jesus, the presence of your mother at the cross engages my heart. You are no longer only the Saviour dying for the sins of the world; you are also fully human, a devoted loving son, caring for his mother. Lord Jesus, help me to become a loving child of Mary; give me the grace and faith to make her my mother also. Give me the courage and confidence to turn to her and to ask for her intercession in all the challenges of my daily life. May she always stand with me at the foot of my own personal cross. Amen.



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Hymn**

**Period of Prayer and Personal Reflection**

**Benediction**

**The Divine Praises**

**Reposition & Final Hymn**