



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

High St, Beaulieu, Highland IV4 7AU

Tel: (01463) 782 232

Website: stmarysbeaulieu.org

Sunday 9th March 2025

1st Sunday of Lent - C

MISSAL PG: 207

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon: [St John Ogilvie](#)

Tues: [St Constantine](#)
7:00pm (Beaulieu)

Wed: 12th Anniversary of
[Pope Francis' Papacy](#)
5:30pm (Marydale)
7:00pm (Beaulieu)

Thurs:
10:00am (Beaulieu)
5:30pm (Fort Augustus)

Friday: 10:00am (Beaulieu)

Parish Priest: [Father Maximilian Nwosu](#)

Email: max.nwosu@rcda.scot

Father James Anyaegbu

Email: jamesanyaegbu@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Mrs Teresa Palmer

secretary.stmarysbeaulieu@gmail.com

SUNDAY MASS TIMES	
ST MARY'S BEAULIEU 11:00am	
OUR LADY & ST BEAN, MARYDALE 9:00am (Confessions, 1st Sun) <i>no Mass 2nd Sunday – go to St Mary's Eskadale</i>	
ST MARY'S ESKADALE 2 nd Sunday in the month, 9:00am	
ST MARTIN'S ULLAPOOL 1 st 3 rd and 5 th Sundays of the month, 2:30pm	
ST MAELRUBHA'S POOLEWE 2 nd & 4 th Sundays of the month at 2:30pm	
LOCHINVER : To be arranged	
FORT AUGUSTUS Sun 11:00am	

This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday

Beaulieu: Page Family (God's Mercy & Love)

Eskadale: Parish Intention

Fort Augustus: Parish Intention

Poolewe: Parish Intention

Tuesday

Beaulieu:

Wednesday

Cannich:

Beaulieu:

Thursday

Beaulieu:

Fort Augustus:

Friday

Beaulieu:

Please pray for the sick of our parishes and all who ask for our prayers.

CONFESSION: call by the Parish House, phone, or email to make an appointment.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Wed. 5:00pm (Marydale); 7:00pm (Fort Augustus)

DEVOTIONS, PRAYER and MASS: The church is open via the side door; weekday morning and evening masses are held in the parish room, in the house.

Vocations We continue to pray for Deacon Aidan Matheson, Anh Tuan Nguyen, Rene De Los Reyes and Richard Webster.

Lenten Station Mass 2025

14 th March (St. Mary's Inverness)	21 st March (Christ the King, Brora)
28 th March (St. Ninian's Inverness)	4 th April (St. Anne's Thurso)
11 th April (St. Peter & St. Benedict, Fort Augustus)	(all at 7:00pm)

Thurso: A coach has been hired for the Station Mass. To book a seat, please contact stmarysinverness@rcda.scot / 01463 233519. The coach will leave from St Mary's Inverness through Beaulieu.

St Mary's Pastoral Parish Council (PPC): there will be a meeting on Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 7:30pm.

Nigeria: Archdiocese of Kafanchan report a priest was kidnapped and found murdered on Ash Wednesday. Fr Sylvester Okechukwu was abducted from St Mary's Catholic church in Tachira located in Kaura area on the evening of 4 March. Since the beginning of the 21st century, Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen and other groups have killed 62,000 Nigerian Christians. Religious violence especially in northern Nigeria is primarily due to the Boko Haram seeking to establish an Islamic State in Nigeria. Your prayers are desperately needed.

Pope: Ashes 'bring us back to reality': In his homily prepared for Mass on Ash Wednesday, read out by Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, Pope Francis said that the imposition of ashes reminds us to "look within ourselves" and remember our fragility – "from dust we are created, and to dust we shall return. We bow our heads in order to receive the ashes", he said, "as if to look at ourselves, to look within ourselves. Indeed, the ashes help to remind us that our lives are fragile and insignificant: we are dust, from dust we were created, and to dust we shall return." This fragility takes many forms, the Pope said: weariness, weaknesses, fears, failures, failed dreams, illness, poverty, suffering, and, of course, mortality. Although we sometimes try to flee these realities, Pope Francis said, the imposition of ashes "reminds us of who we are." This is good for us, he stressed – it helps prevent narcissism, and brings us back to reality, making us "more humble and available to one another". *Vatican News*

Pope's March prayer intention: 'For Families In Crisis'

Pope Francis released his prayer intention for the month of March 2025, and invites everyone to pray for "families in crisis," as he acknowledges that no family is perfect, but that when we forgive our family members, we can rediscover peace. Let us continue to pray for Pope Francis.

After Mass, come to the parish room for a cup of tea or coffee, and maybe a biscuit or two. Meet up with friends or make new friends. Monies raised go to support Mary's Meals.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES (MARCH)

Alexander 'Sandy' Ritchie, John Fraser, Marion Friel, Michael Elliot, Karl Storey.

St Mary's Offertory (Sunday 2 March)

Offertory collection **£238.27**

Second Collection (fabric) **£191.94**

ST MARY'S DONATIONS

(1st Collection – Running Account A/c name:

FOR R.C. DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN, ST MARY'S BEAULIEU

Acc number: **00711527** Sort Code **80-05-61**

(2nd Collection Fabric Account A/c name:

RCD OF ABERDEEN – RCD BEAULIEU ST. MARY'S

Acc No: **10031469** Sort Code: **80-05-61**

ULLAPOOL CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

A/c Name:

Ullapool & Gairloch St Martin of Tours

Account No: **10109462** Sort Code: **80-05-17**

FATHER JAMES' LENTEN REFLECTION (First Sunday of Lent): The Desert of Trust

The Longest Forty Days

James had built his life on hard work and self-determination. He was the kind of man who believed that as long as he put in the effort, success would follow. He had climbed the corporate ladder, provided for his family, and prided himself on being in control of his destiny. But life has a way of humbling even the strongest.

One Friday afternoon, James was called into his boss's office. The news hit like a punch to the gut - his position had been eliminated. After ten years of dedication, it was over in a ten-minute conversation. At first, James told himself he would find another job quickly. He updated his resume, networked, sent out applications. But weeks turned into months, and rejection after rejection chipped away at his confidence. Bills piled up. His savings dwindled. He began to feel like a failure, and worse — he felt abandoned by God.

"Where are You, Lord?" he whispered one night, staring at the ceiling in the dark. "I've done everything right. Why have You left me?"

The Devil's Strategies

In the silence of his despair, the devil's whispers grew louder:

"You see? You were never really in control."

"You are powerless. You are alone."

"God isn't answering because He doesn't care."

"Look at the people who have wronged you — they are thriving while you suffer."

"What's the point of praying? Hasn't God already failed you?"

Doubt slithered into James's mind like a serpent in the desert. He stopped praying. He stopped reading Scripture. He stopped believing that things could change. One evening, while scrolling through job postings, he came across an old friend's social media profile. The friend had just been promoted to an executive role, the very type of position James had been striving for. A wave of jealousy and bitterness rose in his chest. "You should have been in that position," the voice whispered. "God gives to others, but not to you. Maybe you should start taking shortcuts. Maybe faith is for fools." The temptation was real. He could bend his principles, manipulate his way into a job, maybe even exact revenge on those who had wronged him. But deep down, James knew these thoughts were leading him further from the light.

The Place of Trust

The next morning, exhausted and empty, James walked into a small chapel near his home. He hadn't stepped foot inside in years. He sat in the back, watching the flickering candles, listening to the quiet murmurs of prayer. A verse came to his heart: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5) Tears welled in his eyes. For months, he had fought to fix everything on his own. He had leaned on his own strength, his own plans. But now, sitting before God, he realised he had never truly surrendered. He closed his eyes and whispered, "Lord, I don't know what to do. I don't know how to move forward. But I choose to trust You." It wasn't an easy prayer. It wasn't a prayer that erased all his struggles in an instant. But it was a beginning. A shift. A moment of true surrender.

A few days later, on a beautiful morning, James's phone rang. It was his old friend — the one he had envied just days before. "I don't know why, but I kept thinking about you today," his friend said. "There's an opening at my company, and I think you'd be perfect for it. Would you be interested?" James was speechless. This wasn't about getting the perfect job. It was about realising that God had never left him. Even in the silence, even in the waiting, God had been working.

Reflection: *Trust in the Wilderness*

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, facing temptation (Matthew 4:1-11). The devil tried to shake His trust in the Father by offering easy solutions - bread to satisfy hunger, power to prove Himself, shortcuts to glory. But Jesus chose trust over temptation.

Lent is our wilderness. It is a time when the enemy will whisper doubts, when our faith may feel weak, when we may question whether God sees us. But in those moments, we are invited to do what James did - to surrender, to trust and to wait for the God who never abandons His children.

This week, ask yourself:

- Where am I relying on my own strength instead of trusting in God?
- What temptations are trying to pull me away from faith?
- How can I practice true surrender in my struggles?

Lent is not just about suffering - it's about transformation. And that transformation begins when we trust the One who leads us through the desert.

Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!