



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

High St, Beaulieu, Highland IV4 7AU

Tel: (01463) 782 232

Website: stmarysbeaulieu.org

Sunday 23rd March 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent - C

Missal page: 217

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 Eskdale</i>	
ST MARY'S ESKDALE 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	

WEEKDAY MASS	
Mon:	
Tues: The Annunciation of Our Lord - Solemnity 7:00pm (Beaulieu)	
Wed: 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

This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday

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

Cannich: Parish Intention

Ft 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.

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 16 March)

Offertory collection **£261**

Second Collection (fabric) **£208.62**

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**

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

Lenten Station Masses 2025 – all start at 7:00pm

28 th March (St. Ninian's Inverness)	4 th April (St. Anne's Thurso)
11 th April (St. Peter & St. Benedict, Fort Augustus)	

The Justice & Peace Group will be meeting again on Monday 7th April at St. Columba's in Culloden at 7:30pm. We will be looking at the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults bill currently being considered in the Scottish Parliament. We will have a local GP with us to explain what is being proposed and concerns about the legislation in line with Catholic Social Teaching. All warmly welcome. For more information contact: jill.kent@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Next Sunday is SCIAF Sunday: Canon Michael Hutson explains this year's appeal on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). The second Collection next Sunday will go to the Appeal. Go to YouTube as Canon Michael has a few [videos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) on the work of SCIAF and this year especially, please use your Wee Box generously.

Worshippers flock to see body of Brit-born teen ahead of canonisation:

Carlo Acutis, who died aged 15 from leukaemia in 2006, is to become the Catholic Church's first millennial saint after being credited with miracles since his death. His canonisation is on 27 April 2025 *Src: Bishops Conference of Scotland*

Station Mass / Thurso bus: A 49 seater bus has been hired by St Mary's Inverness for the trip. To book a seat, please phone 01463 233519 or email stmarysinverness@rcda.scot Park in St Mary's Beaulieu by 2:00pm, estimated cost per person £15. But you must have booked. Food / toilet stop at Helmsdale.

St. Mary's (Inverness): We require help with preparing, serving a 3-course meal to those in need of a hot meal and help with cleaning up. If you can offer assistance please contact Jill Kent at jillkent@me.com.

2025 Jubilee Year: We are still looking for volunteers to welcome pilgrim groups.

Nigeria Needs Your Prayers: According to a report published by Fides Agency a total of 145 priests were kidnapped and 11 killed in Nigeria between 2015 and 2025, marking a constant increase in ransom-related kidnappings that also affect other communities.
Source: Vatican News

Turn to the back page for Father James' Lenten Reflection.

LENTEN REFLECTION (Third Sunday of Lent): The Second Chance: God's Call to Repentance and New Life

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Story: From Despising Confession to Bearing Fruit

For twenty years, Anthony lived life on his own terms. On the outside, everything seemed successful - he was a respected entrepreneur, with a growing business and a wide circle of admirers. He knew how to charm people. He donated to charities, sponsored local events, and even showed up at Mass during Christmas and Easter. People thought highly of him.

But behind closed doors, Anthony's life told a different story. His marriage was cold and distant, his children barely spoke to him, and he drowned his emptiness in gambling and casual affairs. He carried guilt, though he pretended not to. Whenever he passed by a church, something tugged at his conscience, but he always brushed it off. "God knows I'm a good person," he told himself. Confession? That was for people with weak wills or old ladies who had nothing better to do. He openly mocked it: "Why confess to a priest? They're sinners too. I can talk to God on my own." And he did - whenever he got into trouble, he threw up a quick prayer. But deep down, he kept his heart locked.

One evening, Anthony was invited by an old friend to attend a Lenten parish mission. "It'll be good for you," his friend insisted. Out of politeness - and perhaps curiosity - Anthony agreed. The church was packed, but Anthony sat in the back, arms folded, already planning his exit strategy. Then the priest began to preach. He didn't lecture or condemn. He spoke about God's mercy, about a Father who waits for His child to come home, and about how sin hardens us without us even realizing it.

But it was one line that broke through Anthony's defenses: "You may think you've gone too far, that it's too late, or that you don't need Confession. But God is not tired of waiting. He's only waiting for you to come back." Anthony felt something he hadn't felt in years—a longing to be free. Still, pride held him back. "Not me," he thought. "I'm fine." But his friend, seeing the struggle on Anthony's face, quietly whispered, "I'll go with you." And for reasons Anthony couldn't explain, he got up and walked toward the confessional.

He knelt down, his hands shaking. When the priest opened the screen, Anthony froze. "Father... it's been... twenty years." The priest's voice was gentle. "Welcome home. Take your time." And the dam broke. Anthony confessed everything - the betrayals, the lies, the addiction, the anger he carried toward God. He spoke until there were no more words. And then the priest said something that changed his life: "Anthony, God never stopped loving you. He's been waiting all this time. And today, there's more rejoicing in Heaven than you can imagine."

As the priest prayed the words of absolution, Anthony felt a weight he didn't even know he was carrying lift from his shoulders. He walked out of the confessional not just forgiven, but new. For the first time in twenty years, he was free.

He cried like a child. That night, he didn't go back to his empty house or his old habits. He went to his wife and children, and in his stumbling words, he asked for their forgiveness. The journey of healing was slow, but it had begun. And Anthony knew one thing: God had given him another year to bear fruit. This time, he wouldn't waste it.

Reflection: The Patience and Urgency of God

In Luke 13:1-9, Jesus tells the parable of a fig tree that has borne no fruit. The owner is ready to cut it down. But the gardener pleads, "Sir, leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it." This story is not about trees. It's about us. God's mercy is patient, but His call is urgent. Anthony had wasted twenty years, but God didn't give up on him. This Lent, God offers you another year to bear fruit.

- What in your life needs repentance?
- Where have you resisted the mercy that God longs to give?
- How can you use this "one more year" to grow in love and faith?

The Devil's Strategies: Lies That Keep Us From Confession

The enemy is subtle. He convinces us: "You don't need Confession." "You're not as bad as other people." "It's too late. God is tired of you." "You'll go another time. Later."

But God's Word tells us otherwise. He is ready to forgive, waiting to heal, and offering us time - but not forever. The time to come home is now. This Lent, don't delay.

- Go to Confession.
- Ask for forgiveness.
- Start again.

God is digging around the soil of your heart, watering it with grace. Now is the time to bear fruit.

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus, You are patient with me, even when I run from You. Give me courage to return to You. Break down my pride. Open my heart to Your mercy, so I may live in Your love and bear fruit for Your Kingdom. Amen.