



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

High St, Beaulieu, Highland IV4 7AU

Tel: (01463) 782 232

Website: [stmarysbeaulieu.org](http://stmarysbeaulieu.org)

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - C

Missal page: 217

## WEEKDAY MASS

**Mon:**

**Tues: St Gilbert of Moray**  
7:00pm (Beaulieu)

**Wed: St Francis of Paola**  
5:30pm (Marydale)  
7:00pm (Beaulieu)

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

**Friday: St Isidore of Seville**  
10:00am (Beaulieu)

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES

ST MARY'S BEAULIEU 11:00am

OUR LADY & ST BEAN, MARYDALE  
9:00am (Confessions, 1st Sun) *no Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – go to St Mary's Eskadale*

ST MARY'S ESKADALE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month, 9:00am

ST MARTIN'S ULLAPOOL  
1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month,  
2:30pm

ST MAELRUBHA'S POOLEWE  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 2:30pm

LOCHINVER : To be arranged

FORT AUGUSTUS  
Sun 11:00am

**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**

4<sup>th</sup> April (St. Anne's Thurso)

11<sup>th</sup> April (St. Peter & St. Benedict, Fort Augustus)



### Helping the suffering Church today:

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) are working to show our brothers and sisters in Nigeria that God sees their tears. In our earlier bulletins, we have highlighted kidnappings and deaths. Even Father Max's family have recently experienced the kidnapping of a family member. Today, Nigeria could be described as the most dangerous country on earth to be a Christian. During this period of Lent there is a major appeal by ACN to help the Church in Nigeria.

The positives must be placed before you as the negatives are too dreadful and numerous. With help from ACN, the Church is assisting those displaced by the violence. **Projects** include: Emergency aid for almost 500 displaced families; supporting Sisters who every week, provide food for 400 internally displaced persons; Scholarships to give displaced children an education; training priests to heal trauma and dialogue with Muslims.

**What can you do?** At the back of the church there are a couple of pamphlets with background to the appeal and a small catalogue of cards, handcrafted products, books, jewellery and other gifts.

**But most importantly,**

you can go to the ACN website: <https://acnuk.org/>

**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. Contact: [jill.kent@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk](mailto:jill.kent@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk)

**Today is SCIAF Sunday:** Second collection is going to SCIAF. Also, please use your Wee Box generously. They can be returned on Holy Thursday.

**Station Mass / Thurso bus:** To book a seat phone 01463 233519. Park in St Mary's Beaulieu by 2:10pm, estimated cost per person £20. But you must have booked. Food / toilet stop at Helmsdale. Those with dietary needs should bring a small snack. If you wish to go but can't pay, speak to the priests.

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

Parish Priest: **Father Maximilian Nwosu**

Email: [max.nwosu@rcda.scot](mailto:max.nwosu@rcda.scot)

**Father James Anyaegbu**

Email: [jamesanyaegbu@gmail.com](mailto:jamesanyaegbu@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Teresa Palmer

[secretary.stmarysbeaulieu@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.stmarysbeaulieu@gmail.com)

## This Week's Mass Intentions

### Sunday

Beaulieu: Mother's Day, Thanksgiving

Cannich: Mother's Day, Thanksgiving

Ft Augustus: Mother's Day, Thanksgiving

Ullapool: Mother's Day, Thanksgiving

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

Cannich:

Beaulieu: Fr Max Nwosu (BD. Thanksgiving)

### Thursday

Beaulieu: Grace Marshall (BD. Thanksgiving)

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 23 March)

Offertory collection **£244.20**

Second Collection (fabric) **£176.87**

## ST MARY'S DONATIONS

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

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

Acc number: 00711527 Sort Code 80-05-61

(2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## LENTEN REFLECTION (Fourth Sunday of Lent): Coming Home to Mercy / Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

### Story: The Child Who Thought He Was Unloved

Ethan was seventeen, and like many teenagers, he believed he had everything figured out. His parents, however, seemed to stand in his way. They had rules—curfews, limits on screen time, expectations about schoolwork - and Ethan thought they were unfair. He often overheard his friends talking about how easy going their parents were, and he felt jealous. “I’m the only one who’s trapped,” he would grumble. His frustration grew, especially when his parents refused to let him go on certain trips or stay out late with friends they didn’t trust. In Ethan’s mind, they were controlling and out of touch. They don’t get me, he thought. They don’t care what I want. One night, after a heated argument, Ethan packed a small bag and left home. He was sure he could manage on his own.

At first, life outside his parents' house felt thrilling. He stayed with a friend for a few days, coming and going as he pleased. No one told him what to do. But soon, reality hit hard. His money ran out. His friend’s family grew uncomfortable with him staying there. He ended up sleeping on couches and eventually in a shelter. He was hungry, cold, and scared. Worse, he began to realise the people he thought were his friends weren’t really there for him. Maybe mum and dad weren’t trying to ruin my life, he thought. Maybe they really were looking out for me.

But shame kept him stuck. He was too embarrassed to call them. What if they don’t want me back? Still, late one night, after weeks away, he picked up his phone and texted his mum. “I’m sorry mum. Can I come home?” Almost immediately, his phone rang. His mum’s voice was shaky but filled with relief. “Ethan! Where are you? We’re coming to get you.” Within an hour, his parents arrived. His father got out of the car and wrapped him in a tight hug. His mother wept as she held his face in her hands. They didn’t ask questions. They didn’t lecture him. They simply said, “We’re just glad you’re home.”

Inside the house, things had changed—but not in the way Ethan expected. His room was just as he left it, but now he noticed all the little things his parents had done for him - photos on the wall, clean clothes folded neatly, his favourite meals waiting. He realised they hadn’t been trying to control him. They had been protecting him because they loved him. Over time, they talked about what had happened. There were tears and apologies, but there was also healing. And Ethan slowly understood something deeper: Home was where he was loved, even when he didn’t deserve it. Even when he had misunderstood their love. Even when he had walked away.

### Reflection: *God’s Mercy Is Always Waiting for Us*

This story echoes Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Like Ethan, many of us have moments when we believe God’s laws and guidance are restrictive or unfair. We want to live on our own terms, convinced we know best. But God’s commandments are not there to control us; they’re there to protect us, to lead us to life. When we wander far, God doesn’t abandon us. Like Ethan’s parents, God runs to meet us the moment we turn back.

- His love is not resentful.
- His mercy is not delayed.
- His joy is in welcoming us home.

And when we come home, we discover that what we thought was harshness was really deep, protective love.

### The Devil’s Strategies: Lies That Distance Us from God. The enemy often twists the truth:

- “God’s rules are unfair.”
- “He’s holding you back from freedom.”
- “If you walk away, you’ll be happier.”

But these lies lead us far from home - into loneliness, emptiness, and spiritual hunger. The devil also tries to convince us it’s too late to return, filling us with shame and fear. But God’s mercy is stronger than any failure. He waits, watching for our return.

### Call to Action

This Lent is the perfect time to “come home”:

- If you’ve been distant from God, come back in prayer.
- If you’ve been away from the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, return.
- If you’ve doubted God’s love, ask Him to show you the tenderness of His heart.

There is a place for you in God’s house. You are always welcome.

### Prayer

*Loving Father,*

*Sometimes I think I know better.*

*Sometimes I run from Your love,*

*believing I can make my own way.*

*But I find myself lost and empty.*

*Thank You for always waiting for me,*

*for running to meet me when I return.*

*Help me trust Your love and live in the freedom of being Your child. Amen.*