

## *The last words of Christ spoken from the cross*

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus's journey along the Via Dolorosa was a lonely one. The crowd who only a week ago welcomed him turned against him and demanded his crucifixion. Most of his friends and followers, overcome by fear, deserted him. Two people who did remain with Him right up to His death on the Cross were Mary, His Mother, and John the Apostle.

May the final words of Christ touch our hearts. Help us to realise that we are not merely onlookers but that we too are part of the story of God's salvation to the world.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Gospel Reading - John 19:23-28

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another, 'Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it.'

In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled: They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothes. That is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed and, so that the scripture should be completely fulfilled, he said: I am thirsty.

## *The 7 last words of Jesus*

**"Father, forgive them;  
for they know not what they do."**

(Luke 23:34)

**Today, you will  
be with me in Paradise."**

(Luke 23:43)

**"Woman, behold your Son!....  
Son, behold your Mother!"**

(John 19:26-27)

**"Eli, eli, lama sabachthani? that is, 'My God, My  
God, why have you forsaken me.'"**

(Matthew 27:46-47)

**"I thirst."**

(John 19:28)

**"It is finished."**

(John 19:30)

**"Father, into your hands  
I commit my Spirit."**

(Luke 23:46)