

Ave Maria
MEMORIAL CHAPEL



1947 — *Cornelius "Father Scott"* — 2023

Cornelius "Father Scott" McCarthy

August 23, 1947 — November 12, 2023

Salinas

In Loving Memory of Reverend Cornelius “Father Scott” McCarthy.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Father Scott McCarthy, a devoted Catholic priest, renowned speaker, and passionate advocate for indigenous populations worldwide. Father Scott, born in London, England, in 1947 into a devout Catholic home to an Irish father and a Scottish mother (thus the nickname “Scott”), Scott’s life became a sacred journey that seamlessly wove together his love and respect for indigenous populations with his unwavering Catholic faith.

From a very young age, he felt a profound connection to the ways and customs of native peoples. His life's work became a testament to his commitment to integrating the rich tapestry of indigenous cultures and a profound respect for our earthly home with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Scott was ordained into the priesthood in 1974. A scholar of great distinction, he earned two master's degrees and a Doctorate, showcasing his commitment to intellectual pursuits that could enrich his ministry. He is the author of four books dealing with the intersectionality of the spiritual, religious, and cultural.

Living in Canada, Father Scott was drawn to the traditions and customs of native peoples, seeking to understand and incorporate their wisdom into his own spiritual journey. His unique approach resonated with people from all walks of life, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect.

In his many years of service within the Diocese of Monterey, California, Fr. Scott held pivotal roles that showcased his dedication to the Catholic community. As dean of the deanery, director of native peoples ministry, and a key figure in the ecumenical council, Father Scott worked tirelessly to bridge cultural gaps and promote understanding and healing, always with an eye toward the underserved and marginalized communities.

While we mourn the loss of a truly extraordinary individual, we also celebrate the legacy of a man whose life was dedicated to fostering unity, understanding, and respect among all peoples. Fr. Scott's teachings will continue to resonate in the hearts touched, and his spirit will live on in the countless lives he influenced. May he rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the love and harmony he strived to create in this world.

Funeral Information: Vigil Service: Thursday Nov 30th @ 7pm Mass of Christian Burial: Friday Dec 1st @10am
Madonna del Sasso Church 320 East Laurel Drive Salinas, CA 93906 *Private Burial at later date*

Guestbook



Fr. Scott heard my very first confession while in I was in RCIA and his down to earth manner placed me at ease. Seeing him thereafter at OLS was always a treat as I really enjoyed his homilies. I am so glad he answered God's call to the priesthood. Condolences to his family and friends.

P. GLENNY

Nov 24, 2023

I have known Father Scott for many many years; have had some great talks with him, attended some of the same meetings with him, and shared some of the same concerns over the years. He was brilliant, with a heart as big as he was, kind and compassionate, that went far beyond his training or the norm. His understanding of human suffering, his scholarship, his love and compassion for indigenous peoples, his incredibly creative and beautiful religious services, his inclusionary vision for mankind set him apart. Those of us who knew him could only admire his personal mission and world view. My condolences.

JUNE RADICCHI (REV.)

Nov 27, 2023



Fr Scott was a wonderful inspiration to all those who knew him when he facilitated our Confirmation retreats at St Jude's Church & Parish. He was kind and funny and always had interesting stories and experiences to share. He will be missed. He also served as the priest for my dad's funeral some years ago. ❤️🙏

BETTY Y.

Nov 29, 2023

Father Scott: May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall softly upon your fields. AND until we meet again, may God keep you in the palm of his hand. I will never forget our long chats, and our visits to Starbucks. I shall miss you my friend!

LUMA SERRANO WILLIAMS

Nov 30, 2023

Father Scott returned me to the church. As I lay in the ICU recovering from cancer he came to my room. The room lit up with his presence. His big smile and brightly colored vestments took me by surprise. He soon put me at ease and filled me with wonder and appreciation of his ministry. He heard my confession and gave me communion. I was back to the church. God bless you Father Scott and take you into heaven. You made a difference in this world. May you enjoy everlasting happiness and peace in the next. Neal Owens

NEAL OWENS

Nov 30, 2023

I didn't know father Scott through the church but as a very popular member of our Carmel Valley community. I was so impressed by his compassion and intellect and just plain kindness that he showed absolutely everyone.

ERIN L WENNERHOLM

Dec 1, 2023

I want to start by saying Father Scott you were there for my family you baptized my grandson you married my son you baptized my husband before open heart surgery and you said mass at his funeral you were there for my sister Susan Villarreal's last days on earth. You were like family to everyone you met but most of all you Christ chose you to be his apostle here on earth.

ROSALINDA MANSFIELD

Dec 4, 2023

Father Scott married one of our sons, baptized their 4 children and was our parish priest in Carmel Valley. He was also a good friend. Distance prevented us from seeing him in recent years. He will be held in our family's memories with great affection.

DAVE WATTS

Dec 13, 2023

Father Scott brought me into the Catholic Church in April of 1996 which allowed me to share my spiritual life with my wife and children. We shared a compassion for indigenous people as I had spent years on the Sioux reservation in Montana where Scott had visited in his journey to share his love for them. He made a difference in so many lives. He will be missed.

RICHARD COOPER

Jan 20, 2024

Fr. Scott was both a fine friend, an intellectual and practical mentor on my own journey of continued awareness and dedication to the betterment of all people. Fr.Scott's dedication respect and love for Indiginous Peoples was living proof that the chasm that existed and still exists between Indiginous People and others can, is being and will continue to be bridged. Having known him In Life and now remembering him in Death brings tears of joy to me. He will be missed. I know that his beautiful spirit will always reside inside the heart's of all who had the privilege of knowing him. As The Sandanistas of Nicargua said of the fallen brothers and sisters " Padre Scott, PRESENTE!!".

ALFREDO GUERRERO ESCANDON

Sep 13, 2024