

Our Lady and St. Helen's, Condorrat.

117, Achray Road, G67 4JG

Tel. 01236-731-258

Priest: Rev. Paulinus Onyenuru OP.

Deacon: Paul McNair

www.ourladyandsthelen.org

olsthelen@rcag.org.uk



Mass times

Monday to Friday	10 am
Saturday Vigil Mass	6 pm
Sunday	10 am & 12 noon

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday to Friday	9:00 -9:45 am
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Confessions

Tuesday and Thursday	9:20 am
Saturday	5:20 pm

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time C.
Sunday, 7th of September, 2025.

1st Reading: Wis 9: 13-18

Who can discern what the Lord wills?

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 90

Oh Lord you have been our refuge from generation to generation.

2nd Reading: Philemon 9b-10, 12-17.

Have him no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.

Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Reflection: Counting the Cost, Choosing the Cross

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes a demand that sounds harsh at first: "Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." These are not words meant to frighten, but to reveal the seriousness of following Him. Discipleship is not a casual invitation. It requires a total surrender of heart, mind, and will. Jesus illustrates this with two images: a man planning to build a tower and a king going into battle. Both must first count the cost. Likewise, every Christian must pause to consider what it truly means to follow Christ.

One might ask, "**Is such a radical demand possible in ordinary life?**"

Some years ago, back home in Nigeria, a young nurse shared her story with me. She was offered a promotion that came with a significant salary increase, but the condition was to participate in unethical medical practices that violated her faith. Many around her urged her to accept, arguing that she could still pray and go to church while enjoying the benefits of the new position. With tears, she declined the offer, saying, "If I lose Christ, I lose everything." At the time, it felt like a heavy loss, but later she was offered a position in a Catholic hospital, where she found joy and peace in serving without compromise. The salary was not as attractive as the previous offer, and she had to take on an extra job to make ends meet, yet her heart was free. Her quiet witness became a source of strength for others, showing that faithfulness to Christ is worth more than worldly gain.

This is what Jesus means. Renouncing "all that we have" does not always mean abandoning every possession or breaking every bond. It means being ready to place Christ first, even when it costs us something dear. Sometimes it is a career, sometimes a relationship, sometimes the comfort of silence when truth needs to be spoken.

Whatever we surrender for Christ, He restores in ways far richer than we could imagine. The nurse who said no to compromise discovered the joy

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of serving with integrity. The apostles who left boats and nets discovered a new family in the Church. And we who dare to say “yes” will discover the deep freedom that comes only from living as true disciples.

The cost of discipleship is huge. But so too is the reward. In losing ourselves for Christ, we find the life that never ends.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance: Christ be beside me	No. 194
Offertory: Fill my house	No. 256
Communion 1: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky	No. 376
Communion 2: Sweet Sacrament	No. 635
Recession: Follow me, Follow me	No. 259

Feast: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Memorial: St. John Chrysostom

Deaths: *Christopher Best*

Anniversaries: *Hugh Canavan, Gavin Canavan*

40 Hours Adoration

The rota for the 40 Hours is now displayed on the notice board. Parishioners are invited to sign up for an hour with the Lord as “Watchers.”

- **Sunday 14th:** Exposition from 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm, concluding with Benediction.
- **Monday 15th:** Exposition from 11.00 am to 7.00pm. At 6.00 pm there will be a talk by **Fr. Isaac Umaru Abba:** *“Come to me, all you who are weary”* (Matthew 11:28).

Tuesday 16th: Exposition from 11.00am to 7.00pm. At 6.00pm there will be a talk by Dr Christine Mugridge: *“Living the New Evangelization, with insights*

from Saint Pope John Paul II.” The Archbishop will preside at Solemn Vespers with Benediction for the parishes of our deanery on the 15th of September at 7 pm.

First Sunday Teas

On the **first Sunday of each month**, tea, coffee, and biscuits will be served after every Mass. There is no charge. It is simply an opportunity to socialize, meet fellow parishioners, and take part in the **200 Club draws**. All are welcome!

Appreciation

The parish joins **Susan McCutcheon** in giving thanks to God for her healing and speedy recovery. Susan is deeply grateful for the many cards and kind wishes she received during her time in the hospital, and she warmly thanks all parishioners for their prayers and support.

SSVP Afternoon Tea – Sacred Heart

The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP)** invites parishioners to an Afternoon Tea at **Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, 13th September at 2.00 pm**. Those who have already signed up are warmly reminded to attend. If there are still spaces available, parishioners are most welcome to add their names to the list and join this joyful gathering.

♟ CHESS CLUB BEGINS ON THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER AFTER THE 10 AM MASS. ♀

The Parish will also launch a **Youth Club** this **October**, aimed at encouraging the active involvement of our young people in the life and activities of the Church. **This will take place every Friday.**

We are seeking volunteers who are willing to support and help organize our youth program. Interested persons may speak with Fr. Paulinus.

Collections for 24/08/2025

Offertory: £468.08

Gift Aid envelopes: £412.5 Thank you for your generosity.

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