

## OUR LADY AND ST. HELEN'S



### CONDORRAT.

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Deacon: Paul McNair

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#### 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

Fourth Sunday of Easter -A

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 2026.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Act 2: 14, 36-41

*God has made him both Lord and Christ.*

#### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23 (22)

*The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Peter 2: 20b-25

*You have returned to the shepherd of your souls.*

#### Gospel: John 10:1-10

*I am the door of the sheep.*

#### Reflection: Can You Still Recognise His Voice?

The nomadic lifestyle of herders is a fascinating sight to behold. You see a herd of cattle or sheep led by a man, moving steadily across open land in search of pasture and water. At night, the shepherd sleeps in the centre of the flock. The Shepherd is a living gate, and his very presence is the only boundary between safety and danger. The sheep do not see him as different from them, except that they know he is their leader. The shepherd has proven time and time again that he is worthy of trust. He carries the young on his shoulders and plays with them as if they were his own children. He is their provider, their protector, and their friend.

So, by instinct, the sheep come to know the sound of his voice. His voice is unique and distinct. His call is enough to get them excited, quiet, or to fall in line. The sheep follow because they have learned that wherever the shepherd leads, survival is assured.

This is precisely the image David draws upon in Psalm 23. The shepherd leads beside still waters and into green pastures, because the shepherd knows what life requires. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, the rod and staff bring comfort, not fear. The sheep trust the shepherd's presence more than they fear the darkness around them. Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour, steps into this same imagery as the "True Shepherd." A shepherd who not only sustains life, but also gives life in overflowing abundance. He draws a sharp contrast between himself and the thief who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. The attitude of the shepherd is one of total commitment to the well-being of the sheep. The life of the sheep is wrapped around that of the shepherd. This intimacy results in unhindered listening to the voice of the shepherd.

Modern husbandry has taken a less nomadic approach, with fences, farmhands, and feedlots replacing the constant presence of the shepherd. In many ways, this shift mirrors the condition of our spiritual lives today. The "modern" patterns of life filled with constant activity, noise, and endless distractions can create a similar distance between Us and Christ. We surround

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ourselves with many voices and many forms of security, and so lose the simplicity of direct and intimate communion with Christ, our Shepherd.

The question is, **can we still recognize the voice of Jesus Christ?** Today, we are called to return to the “old ways” of silence and spiritual stillness. To step away, even if briefly, from the noise that surrounds us, and to listen again. For it is in that quiet place, near the Shepherd, that we rediscover the path that leads to fullness of life.

### Hymns for Sunday

<b>Entrance:</b> The Lord is my Shepherd	<b>No. 661</b>
<b>Offertory:</b> Take our Bread	<b>No. 641</b>
<b>Communion:</b> Here in this place	<b>No. 327</b>
<b>Recession:</b> I will be with you	<b>No. 379</b>

**Feast:** St. Catherine of Siena (**Wednesday**)

Let us continue to pray for the sick and those recovering in our parish, especially *Helen Walsh*.

**Death:** *Michael Spillane, Martha Mochan, Alex Gorman, Elizabeth Ann Sweeney, Jack Morrison, Elizabeth Myles (NASH), Claire McCluskey.*

**Anniversary:** *Rose Bower, Alex Stirling, Helen McGinn.*

The Fatima Devotion comes up on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of May**, with Mass at 10 AM. The Rosary begins immediately after Mass.

### Weekday Evening Mass: Parish Feedback

The Parish Council is mindful that many parishioners, especially families who work during the day, may find it difficult to attend weekday Masses. In response, we are considering introducing a **weekday evening Mass**. Before making any decision, we would greatly value your feedback. Your suggestions can be placed in the suggestion box, which will be made available from next week. Thank you for your commitment to parish life.

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### Infant Baptism

We appreciate the feedback regarding the celebration of infant baptisms during the 12 noon Mass. Subsequently, notice of upcoming infant baptisms will be included in the bulletin in the week(s) preceding the celebration.

**There will be infant baptism during the 12 noon Mass on the 3rd of May.**

### Collections for 19/04/2026

**Offertory:** £558.03

**Gift Aid envelopes:** £351

**Easter Quarterly:** £80

Thank you

### Parish Football Match

Our parish will be taking part in a friendly football match against Holy Cross Church on **Saturday, 6th June** at Cumbernauld Rugby Fields. Kick-off is at **2:00 PM**, with players meeting at **1:15 PM**. We are inviting players from the parish aged **15 and above**, of all abilities, to take part.

Parishioners, families, and members of the wider community are warmly encouraged to come along and support.

Food and refreshments will be provided in the rugby club after the match at **4:00 PM**.

### Church Choir: Open Rehearsals

The Parish choir will be holding its first open rehearsal for all members of the parish on **Thursday, 28th May at 7:00 PM in the Church**. Please note that this is **not a commitment to join the choir**, but rather an opportunity for us, as a parish, to come together and learn new hymns