

OUR LADY AND ST. HELEN'S

CONDORRAT.

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Priest: Rev. Paulinus Onyenuru OP.

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

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy Sunday (Gaudete)

Sunday, 14TH of December, 2025.

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a

God himself will come and save you.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146 (145)

Come, Lord and Save Us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Establish your heart for the coming of the Lord, it is close at hand.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?

Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice, the Lord is Near

Gaudete Sunday, often called *Joy Sunday*, invites us to pause in the midst of Advent and rejoice. The Church clothes herself in rose, not to distract us from preparation, but to remind us that our waiting is filled with hope. The reason for our joy is simple: the birth of Christ is near. God is about to step into human history in humility, love, and mercy, and this changes everything.

The joy that the birth of Christ brings into our lives is immense. Christmas has a unique way of drawing families together. We gather around tables, share meals, tell stories, and relive old memories. Some we remember fondly, others we laugh about only because enough time has passed. Christmas also becomes a moment when bridges are rebuilt, past hurts are gently set aside, and hearts dare to hope again. It is a time when we plan for a better tomorrow with family and friends, and these moments themselves become deep and lasting sources of joy.

This season is also marked by the giving of gifts, especially to our children and grandchildren. Grandparents, in particular, have developed a remarkable reputation for generosity. They are often accused of spoiling their grandchildren far more than they ever spoiled their own children. Of course, this accusation is entirely unfair. After all, none of us had ever worn the title of “grandparent” before, so how were we meant to know how to get it right? Wisdom, it appears, arrives one generation later, accompanied by a more generous purse and a heart that has grown delightfully tender.

Yet, as we give gifts, Gaudete Sunday gently calls us to be attentive to the temptation of consumerism. Before buying that gift, it may be worth asking a few honest questions: *Will this gift be cherished in two months, or quietly forgotten in a cupboard? Am I stretching my budget beyond what is wise? Am I buying this out of love, or out of pressure? Could this gift help draw the child closer to God, even in a small way?*

Safeguarding holds a vital place in the life of the Archdiocese of Glasgow. Our parish is committed to promoting safeguarding awareness and embraces our collective responsibility to provide care and protection for everyone.

Above all, let us ensure that the gifts do not obscure the season itself. This is not merely a shopping season. It is **the birthday of Christ Jesus**. As we place gifts into the hands of our children, it is also worth asking: *What gift are we helping them offer to the Baby Jesus?* Perhaps it is a prayer, an act of kindness, a forgiving heart, or a renewed love for God.

On this Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice not because everything is perfect, but because **the Lord is near**, and that is joy enough.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance: Rejoice in the Lord always	No. 590
Offertory: Take me, Lord	No. 638
Communion 1: Sweet Sacrament Divine	No. 635
Communion 2: Only a Shadow	No. 662
Recession: Fill your heart with joy and gladness	No. 257

Death: *Helen Riddell, Grace McKeown, Walter Green, Margaret McGanagle*

Christmas Carol by the Children of St. Helen's Primary

The children of St. Helen's Primary will present their Christmas Carol in the Church on **Thursday, 18 December, at 11:30 a.m.** This is a cherished moment in our parish life, offering us an opportunity to support and encourage our young ones as they sing to the Glory of the Newborn Christ. Parishioners are warmly invited to be present.

Parish Christmas Party

Get ready to celebrate! Our parish Christmas Party will take place on **Monday, 29 December**, starting at **6:30 p.m.**   Join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and festive cheer. Don't forget to **sign up on the list at the entrance**  so we can save you a spot.

Let's make this a night to remember!  

Mary's Meal" Box in the Porch

The total amount realized in the "Mary's Meal" box for this year is £931.23. A heartfelt expression of gratitude comes from Mary's Meal to all our parishioners for their generous and continued support. Your kindness makes a profound difference in the lives of children who rely on this mission for daily nourishment.

Mass Schedule for the Christmas Octave.

Wednesday, 24th Evening: Nativity Play at 4:50 pm. Vigil Masses at 5:30 pm and 9 pm.

Thursday, 25th Christmas Day: Mass at 11 am

Friday, 26th: Feast of St. Stephen, Mass at 10 am

Saturday, 27th: Vigil Mass at 6 pm

Sunday, 28th: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Masses at 10 am and 12 noon

Monday, 29th: Mass at 10 am

Tuesday, 30th: Mass at 10 am

Wednesday, 31st: Mass of the day at 10 am and Vigil Mass at 7 pm.

Thursday, 1st of January, New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

Mass at 11 am.

Mass schedules not listed above remain the same.

Used Stamps, Please

All used stamps collected will be sent to St. Patrick's Mission. Parishioners are kindly reminded to leave a border of approximately **2 cm (or 1½ inches)** around each stamp to ensure proper processing. Your continued support of this charitable work is deeply appreciated.

Collections for 23/11/2025

Offertory: £564.09 **Gift Aid envelopes:** £361

Thank you.

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