

## 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

Solemnity of St Peter and St. Paul -A  
Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2026.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 12: 1-11

*Now I am sure that the Lord has rescued me from the hands of Herod.*

#### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34(33)

*From all the terrors, the Lord set me free.*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18

*There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.*

#### Gospel: Matthew 16: 113-19

*You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Reflection: Two Personalities, One Mission.

The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, celebrated on 29 June, is one of the great feasts of the Church because it honours two apostles whose lives are pillars of Christianity. Saint Peter, originally named Simon, was a fisherman from Galilee. He was called by Jesus while he was working by the Sea of Galilee: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Among the Twelve Apostles, Peter occupied a unique place. Jesus gave him the name Peter, meaning "rock," and declared: "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). Yet Peter often misunderstood Jesus, acted impulsively, and denied knowing Jesus three times. However, after the Resurrection, Peter experienced the risen Lord's mercy and forgiveness. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, he became a bold preacher of the Gospel and a shepherd of the early Christian community. According to ancient Christian tradition, Peter was martyred in Rome. His executioners wanted to crucify him, so he chose to have himself crucified upside down, as he did not feel worthy to die like his Master, Jesus Christ.

Saint Paul, formerly known as Saul, had a very different journey. He was a learned Jew, a Pharisee, and initially a fierce persecutor of Christians. He believed that the followers of Jesus were a threat to the faith of Israel (Judaism). On the road to Damascus, Paul encountered the risen Christ, who asked him: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). From being a persecutor, he changed his name and became the greatest missionary of the early Church. Paul travelled widely, preaching mainly to Gentile communities, establishing Christian communities, and writing letters that became part of the New Testament. His life was marked by suffering and an unwavering commitment to Christ. Paul was also martyred in Rome, according to ancient Christian tradition. He was beheaded at a place known as *Tre Fontane*, meaning 'Three Fountains', because his head bounced three times, and at each place where his head touched the ground, a fountain is said to have miraculously appeared

The vestment worn today is red, the colour of blood and fire. It reminds us of the blood shed by Peter, Paul, and the martyrs who gave their lives for Christ, and of the fire of the Holy Spirit that empowered the apostles to proclaim the

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Gospel with courage. Saints Peter and Paul were exemplary witnesses and teachers of “The Way”. They accepted suffering because they believed that Christ was worth everything.

The Church celebrates both saints today because they represent two important dimensions of the Christian mission. Peter represents the foundation, unity, and pastoral leadership of the Church, while Paul represents the missionary spirit that carries the Gospel beyond boundaries to all peoples. Their celebration together reminds us that the Church is strengthened by the unity of spirit and mission is fostered by the diversity of gifts.

The lives of Saints Peter and Paul teach us that God does not call only the perfect. He calls people who are willing to be transformed by God’s grace. Their witnessing challenges us to examine our own commitment to Christ. Like these apostles, we are called to move from faith that is only spoken to faith that is lived. ***Be inspired today to witness to and teach the Gospel with your life and then with words.***

#### Hymns for Sunday

<b>Entrance: Open your ears O Christian people</b>	<b>No. 546</b>
<b>Offertory: On this house, your blessings, Lord</b>	<b>No. 543</b>
<b>Communion 1: Here in this place</b>	<b>No. 327</b>
<b>Recession: Praise to the holiest in the height</b>	<b>No. 558</b>

St. Thomas the Apostle (Feast, Friday).

**Death:** *Margaret McGee, Sadie Behan, Catherine Docherty, Robert Leddy (Snr), Andrew John Millar.*

**Anniversary:** *Joseph Hearty, Sadie McCunn, Daniel Cassidy, Matt Armour.*

The **Fatima Devotion** comes up on the **4th of July** with Mass at 10 AM. The Rosary begins immediately after Mass. Everyone is welcome.

#### Church Garden Appeal

Thanks to all volunteers who care for the church garden. More help is needed over the summer to maintain the grounds. We are also seeking skilled volunteers (e.g., handy persons or joiners) to replace the wooden edging in the Church house garden. If you can help, please speak to Fr. Paulinus or Lawrence Miller.

#### Stella Maris / Seafarers Appeal

As part of our parish support for seafarers, we are looking for volunteer knitters. Seafarers spend long periods at sea in all weather conditions, and donations of warm knitted items such as hats, scarves, and gloves are always greatly appreciated. If you enjoy knitting, please consider supporting this worthwhile cause. A collection box is available at the back of the church for these products. Thank you for your generosity. For further information, please contact: 07772 042372.

#### Collections for 21/06/2026

**Offertory: £589.58**

**Gift Aid envelopes: £321.** Thank you.

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