

**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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Sunday, 23rd of August, 2026.

1st Reading: Isaiah 22: 15, 19-23

I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138(137)

Oh Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

2nd Reading: Romans 11: 33-36

From him and through him and to him are all things.

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven

Reflection: The Hand of God Behind Where We Are Today

In Romans 11:33–36, Paul breaks into a powerful expression of worship after reflecting on God's mysterious plan for both Israel and the Gentiles: **“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”** Paul had been wrestling with a difficult question: if Israel was God's chosen people, why had many Israelites rejected Christ, while the Gentiles were receiving the Gospel? To Paul, there must be a logical response to this. In his perplexity, he turns to the Omniscience and Omnipotence of God.

Paul came to understand that God's plan was far greater than what he and the rest of humanity could immediately see. Israel's rejection created an opportunity for the Gospel to reach the Gentiles, yet this did not mean that God had abandoned Israel. The temporary loss of Israel became, in a sense, a gain for the Gentiles, but this should not be a source of pride for the Gentiles. Likewise, Israel was not to fall into despair.

Could the same be said of us? Our stable lives, our education, our families, our opportunities, and even our faith are not reasons to look down on those whose lives are falling apart. They are reasons to be grateful and humble. We are where we are today partly because of the decisions we have made, but we must never forget that we did not make those decisions alone. Along the way, God placed certain people in our lives, brought us to particular places, and allowed certain events to shape and guide us. Through His Holy Spirit, He gave us conviction and strength to make these right decisions. And, in His providence, God caused many of those decisions and circumstances to work together for our good. But here is what should keep us humble. There are many people who made similar decisions, worked just as hard, and tried to do the right things, yet their lives did not turn out in the same way as ours. This does not mean that we are better, wiser, or more deserving than they are. This means that behind every good thing we enjoy, there are not only our efforts and decisions but also God's mercy and grace.

So, instead of asking, “Why is their life such a mess?” perhaps we should ask, “How can I show them the mercy that God has shown me?” We are not the

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authors of every good thing in our lives. We have responsibilities and must make wise decisions, but ultimately, our lives are sustained by Grace. Because God's wisdom is deeper than our understanding, we should never assume that we know another person's past, present, or future better than God does.

Paul's message also challenges the way we view those who have not accepted Jesus Christ. Those of us who are here today, trying to practice our faith and follow Christ, must be careful not to look down on others with disdain. We must not become spiritually proud, as though our faith makes us better than those who are still searching, struggling, doubting, or have not yet accepted Christ. Neither should we look at them with despair, as though their present condition is the final chapter of their lives. The same God who reached us can reach them. The same mercy that saved us is available to them.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance: Be thou my vision	No. 168
Offertory: Take our Bread	No. 641
Communion: I am the bread of life	No. 349
Recessional: Our God reigns	No. 346

St. Bartholomew (Memorial, Monday), **St. Monica** (Memorial, Thursday), **St. Augustine** (Memorial, Friday), **The Passion of St. John the Baptist** (Memorial, Saturday).

Death: *Rose Steel, John McAtee (Tony), Mary Sweeney, Roddy Barclay.*

Anniversary: *James McDonald, Marcella Casey (Madge), James Carragher, Jimmy Byrne, Bridie Byrne, Anne Heron, Carlo Callaizzo, Elio Callaizzo.*

The funeral of **John McAtee (Tony)** was celebrated on Saturday, 22nd of August, 2026 in our Church.

Choir Practice

There will be **Choir Practice on Thursday, 27th August** in the **Church**. All choir members are warmly encouraged to attend. **New members are also very welcome!**

Youth Club! We're Back!!

Our **Youth Club** resumes on **Friday, 4th September at 6:30 PM** in the **Church Hall**. We warmly encourage parents to bring their children and teenagers, and to invite their friends as well. It is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to meet, make new friends, grow in faith and enjoy themselves in a welcoming and friendly environment. **There will be plenty of fun, games and activities!**

We look forward to welcoming everyone back and seeing our young ones there!

Collections for 16/08/2026

Offertory: £527.55	Gift Aid envelopes: £357
Assisted Parishes: £543	

Paraclete Prayer Group

This is a long-standing prayer group in the parish. It meets in homes and is keen to have new members. hem. Kindly reach out to Kathleen Gay or Mary Keegan.

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