

**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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time -A
Sunday, 19th of July, 2026.

1st Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

You give repentance for sins

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 86(85)

Oh Lord, you are good and forgiving.

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-27

The Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

Let both grow together until the harvest.

Reflection: God, Why Not Remove Evil Now?

Have you ever asked God, "Lord, if You are all-powerful, why don't You simply remove evil from the world?" Or perhaps, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" I suspect many of us have. I certainly have, and I do not think God is offended by such questions. After all, they are the very questions hidden in today's Gospel (Matthew 13:24–43). The servants in the parable discover weeds growing among the wheat and immediately ask their master, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?" In other words, "Lord, shall we fix this problem for You?" The master's answer is unexpected: "No. Let both grow together until the harvest."

This answer and many other responses from God about certain life challenges can be difficult to accept. We live in a world scarred by war, injustice, abuse, poverty, sickness, and betrayal. Good people are often hurt by others' selfishness and evil choices. How do we respond? Fix it! We want to fix it by ourselves or expect God to fix it on our terms. When this is not working, we ask again: Why does God allow the weeds to remain?

The Jewish Rabbi Harold Kushner, in his book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, offers a helpful insight. He reminds us that suffering is not necessarily God's punishment, nor is every tragedy something God deliberately sends. We live in a world where human freedom is real, and real freedom comes with real consequences. God does not create evil, but He grants us the freedom to choose between good and evil; between love and selfishness.

Jesus takes us a step further. He challenges our faith with this question: "Can you trust the wisdom of the Master of the field? Perhaps God does not remove the weeds immediately because He sees what we cannot see. Perhaps His patience is itself an expression of His mercy towards every human person. Perhaps some of us, if we are honest, have discovered both wheat and weeds growing within our own hearts."

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.

My friends, do not spend your life counting the weeds in other people's fields. Spend your life cultivating the wheat in your own field. Refuse to let the evil around you become the evil within you. Choose kindness when others choose cruelty. Choose truth when lies seem more convenient. The harvest belongs to God. Our vocation is simply to remain faithful to God and to become the kind of wheat that nourishes the world.

And when life's difficult questions remain unanswered, always remember that faith is not knowing all the answers. Faith is not fixing it all at once or once and for all. Faith is trusting in the One who holds the World in the palm of His hands.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance: Praise to the Lord the Almighty	No. 583
Offertory: Blest are you Lord	No. 96
Communion: As the deer pants for the water	No. 142
Recession: Blest be the Lord	No. 259

St. Mary Magdalene (Feast, Wednesday), St. Bridget (Feast, Thursday), St. James (Feast, Saturday).

Death: *Archbishop Augustine Akubeze, Harry Reid, Helen Doyle.*

Anniversary: *William Frew, Maurice Gallagher, Cathy Gallagher.*

Completion of the Parish Hall

We are delighted to announce that the Parish Hall has been completed, two weeks ahead of schedule. We thank God for this wonderful achievement and express our sincere gratitude to everyone whose hard work made it possible.

As we prepare to put the Hall into full use, we are looking for **three to four parish volunteers** to assist with its day-to-day management and coordination. If you are willing to offer your time and talents to this important ministry, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please speak to Fr.

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Paulinus or any member of the Parish Pastoral Council if you are interested in serving.

Community Meeting

You are warmly invited to our Parish Community Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, 19 August, at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a parish family, share ideas, and discuss matters that concern our community. We encourage everyone to attend and take part in the life of our parish.

Collections for 12/07/2026

Offertory: £516.65

Gift Aid envelopes: £312.

Stella Maris Collection: £756.07 Thank you.

Nigerian Catholic Community in Glasgow: Annual Thanksgiving and Bazaar

The Nigerian Catholic Community in Glasgow warmly invites everyone to its Annual Thanksgiving and Bazaar. Come and join in this joyful celebration of faith, culture, fellowship, and gratitude. The 2026 Harvest and Bazaar will take place on **Sunday, 2 August 2026, at 11.30 am** at **Glenconner Park, Glasgow**. There will be food, music, cultural activities, and an opportunity to celebrate together as one community. All are welcome. We look forward to celebrating with you!