

## 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

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2025.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Num 21:4b-9

*If a serpent bit anyone, they would look at the bronze serpent and live.*

#### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 78

*Never forget the deeds of the Lord.*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

*He humbled himself, therefore, God has highly exalted him.*

#### Gospel: John 3: 13-17

*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*

### Reflection: Why Exalt in the Cause of Shame?

The ancient Romans were masters of many things, including arts, poetry, architecture, oppression, covetousness, and licentiousness. They were also skilled in the art of torture, brutality, and public humiliation. Among their cruellest inventions, crucifixion was perfected as a punishment that combined physical torment with maximum societal shame.

A condemned person, already beaten beyond recognition, was forced to carry two heavy beams, usually set at right angles, over a long distance towards the city gate. Stripped naked and nailed to the cross, the criminal was left to die in agony while passers-by looked on. This was not only a warning to anyone daring to resist Roman authority, but also a lasting disgrace to the family of the crucified. Crucifixion was considered the most dreadful of deaths, the very height of evil.

Yet God allowed evil to do its worst to His Son, Jesus Christ, by allowing Jesus to be nailed on the Cross. What seemed like the final triumph of darkness was in fact the very means by which God revealed His saving power. By raising Jesus from the dead, the Father showed that the Cross was not a defeat but the moment of victory. What the world regarded as shame became the throne of glory, and what looked like failure became the source of life for all who believe.

On the Cross, Jesus bore the weight of human sin. All that is evil in us was nailed there with Him. Yet God transformed the Cross into the very instrument of salvation for the human race and all creation. Through the Cross, we who were dead in sin have been given new life in Christ. Through the Cross, we are saved from slipping into eternal loss and damnation (**Salvation**). Through the Cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins with His life (**Redemption**). On the Cross, Christ offered Himself as the sacrifice of expiation, reconciling humanity to God (**Atonement and Reconciliation**). Through the Cross, God declares sinners righteous, not by our own merit, but by faith in Christ and by the grace flowing from the sacrifice of Jesus (**Justification**). By the Cross, the chains of sin, death,

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and the devil are broken, setting us free (Liberation). On the Cross, Christ triumphed over the powers of darkness and gained the ultimate Victory (**Christus Victor**). Through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, we are made children of God and heirs of His kingdom (**Adoption**).

As Jesus himself said: "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself." Let us, then, exalt the Cross of Christ, for in it we enter into the fullness of God's mercy and saving love.

### Hymns for Sunday

<b>Entrance:</b> When I survey the Wondrous Cross	<b>No. 731</b>
<b>Offertory:</b> Here in this place	<b>No. 327</b>
<b>Communion 1:</b> This is my body	<b>No. 681</b>
<b>Communion 2:</b> Jesus My Lord, my All	<b>No. 397</b>
<b>Recession:</b> On a hill far away	<b>No. 535</b>

**Memorial:** Our Lady of Sorrows (Monday), St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong and companions (Saturday)

**Feast:** St. Ninian (Tuesday)



**Deaths:** *George O'Hare, John Semple, Christopher Best.*

**Anniversaries:** *Selina Spafford, Mike Jackson, Tommy and Cathy O'Brien.*

### 40 Hours Adoration

- **Sunday 14th:** Exposition from 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm, talk by **Mr. Innocent Ofonkansi** at 6pm, concluding with Benediction.
- **Monday 15th:** Exposition from 11.00 am to 7.00pm. At 6.00 pm there will be a talk by **Fr. Isaac Umaru Abba:** "*Come to me, all you who are weary*" (Matthew 11:28).
- **Tuesday 16th:** Exposition from 11.00am to 7.00pm. At 6.00pm there will be a talk by **Dr Christine Mugridge:** "*Living the New Evangelization, with insights from Saint Pope John Paul II.*"

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- **Parish Register Forms:** Parish register forms are now available for collection. We kindly ask every household to pick up a form, complete it, and return it to the box provided near the sacristy. Keeping our parish register up-to-date helps us to know our parish community better, stay in touch, and offer the right support when needed. Thank you for taking the time to fill yours in.
- **Spred Cumbernauld – Appeal for Volunteers**
- Spred Cumbernauld was delighted to welcome two new catechists after the recent parish appeal. However, with three of our long-serving catechists retiring, we now urgently need new volunteers to support our groups. Even one more person would make a real difference, though several would be ideal. If you are interested, contact Angela on **07963 938731**. You can also read more about Spred in this month's *Flourish*.
-  **CHESS CLUB BEGINS ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER AFTER THE 10 AM MASS.** 
- The Parish will also launch a **Youth Club** this **October**, aimed at encouraging the active involvement of our young people in the life and activities of the Church. **This will take place every Friday.**
- We are seeking volunteers who are willing to support and help organize our youth program. Interested persons may speak with Fr. Paulinus.
  - **Collections for 07/09/2025**
- **Offertory:** £486.26
- **Gift Aid envelopes:** £406 Thank you for your generosity.
- **Pro-Life Mass:** The monthly Pro-Life Mass is on Wednesday, 17th September at 7.30pm at Holy Cross, 113 Dixon Ave, G42 8ER. Adoration begins at 6.15pm. Tea in the hall afterwards – all welcome.