



**OUR LADY OF THE CRAYS RC CHURCH, CRAY VALLEY**  
312 High Street, St Mary Cray, Kent BR5 4AR



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**Parish Priest: Fr. Cyriacus Okafor**  
**Deacon: Reverend Longinus Anyanjo**  
**Parish Secretary: Dominica Winter**

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**PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**St. Philomena's**  
Tel: 01689 826550  
Chelsfield Road, BR5 4AD  
Head Teacher: Miss V Maher

**St. Peter & St. Paul**  
Tel: 01689 828208  
St Paul's Wood Hill, BR5 2SR  
Head Teacher: Miss Everson

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**Our Lady's Pre-School - [www.ourladypreschool.net](http://www.ourladypreschool.net)**  
Manager: Anne-Marie Glancy Tel: 07983 660589

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**To hire the Parish Hall for any event please contact: 01372 457651**

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**SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)**

*"I tell you solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest" (John 12:23-24).*

Today is the last Sunday in Lent, as the next Sunday is 'Passion Sunday,' that ushers in 'the Holy Week,' which reaches its climax on 'Easter Sunday.' The central theme of today's Scripture Readings is the resurrection and the new life that comes with it. The prophet Jeremiah in the First Reading reminds the Israelites of the new covenant which God is about to contract with them. This New Covenant will usher in a new life based on mutual respect and love. In the Gospel, Christ reminds us about the spiritual significance of suffering and death by stating that "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" John 12:24.



Jesus' words "Unless a grain of wheat dies..." could mean that challenging and difficult moments toughen us and makes us a stronger person, after all, God chastises those He loves (Heb.12:6; Prov. 3:12; Rev.3:19). Moreover, Jesus' statement also refers to the Christian belief that death is not annihilation or the eternal end, but the beginning of the journey to eternal life. Today, Jesus offers us a new life based on the covenant of love, where the law of God is now written in our hearts. During the season of Lent, the Church invites us to die to ourselves & sins; to rise from the death of sin to a life bathed in the love of God. She equally reminds us that death is just a passage into eternal life, for unless a grain of wheat dies, it cannot bring new shoot or life (John 12:24).

### **Confiteor (I Confess)**

**I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

### **Kyrie, eleison.**

Lord, have mercy	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	Kyrie, eleison	<b>Kyrie, eleison.</b>
Christ, have mercy	<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>	Christe, eleison	<b>Christe, eleison.</b>
Lord, have mercy	<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	Kyrie, eleison	<b>Kyrie, eleison.</b>

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First reading: A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it in their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

**The Word of the Lord.      *Thanks be to God.***

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 50: 3-4,12-15**

***Response:*** *A pure heart create for me, O God.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. **R**

### **Second reading: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 5: 7-9**

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

**The Word of the Lord.      *Thanks be to God.***

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, there also will my servant be.

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

### **THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to John 12: 20-33**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

**The Gospel of the Lord.     *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **The Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit (*all bow*) was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## **SANCTUS**

### **English**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Latin**

***Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dóminus Deus Sábaoth***

***Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua.***

***Hosána in excélsis.***

***Benedíctus qui venit in nómine  
Dómini.***

***Hosána in excélsis.***

We shall pray **Preface II of Lent** and say **Eucharistic Prayer III**

### **The Mystery of Faith**

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

### **English**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### **Latin**

***Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.***

***Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.***

***Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.***

***O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine,  
All praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment thine (x 3)***

**Hail Holy Queen: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.**

**Priest:** Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God;

**People:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Priest:** Let us pray:

**O God, whose only-begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech you, that meditating on these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# PARISH INFORMATION AND FAITH NEWS

**Second Collection:** There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of Poor Parishes. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

**A Day With Jesus:** We will be holding A Day With Jesus on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March to prepare us for Holy Week. Please take a leaflet from the porch for more details.

**March Birthdays:** This weekend, we are celebrating all our parishioners who were born in the month of March with a special blessing at the end of each Mass. Please join us in the hall after Mass for birthday cake.

**Stations of the Cross:** During this Lenten period, there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7.30pm conducted by the different Groups in the Parish.

March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study/Charismatics	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	SVP/Legion of Mary	
		March 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	11am	Holy Communion & Confirmation Candidates
			7.30pm	Fr. Cyriacus

**Easter Offering Envelope:** This is a gentle reminder that the Easter Offering is your personal gift to Fr. Cyriacus, not to the Parish. If you have a Gift Aid number, please use the Easter offering envelope with your number on it. If you do not have a gift aid number, but you are a taxpayer, please write down your name and address so that the parish can claim 25% back as gift aid tax return on your donation.

**Altar Servers' Rehearsal for the Triduum:** All the Altar servers will be having a rehearsal with Fr. Cyriacus on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in preparation for the Triduum Liturgy. We appeal to all the parents of our Altar servers to encourage their wards in joining this rehearsal.

**Readers during the Holy Week/Triduum Masses:** Fr. Cyriacus would meet with all those who would be reading during the Triduum Masses and services on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.15pm in the Church.

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** If you are a member of our Gift Aid scheme and you usually donate via an envelope, please collect your envelopes for the new tax year from the porch as soon as possible.

**Children's Liturgy:** We have already had a number of people step forward to volunteer for our renewed Children's Liturgy programme and we are grateful to them. We only need around 5 more people and then we will be ready to make a start. Volunteers will be needed once a month during the 11am Sunday Mass and the Parish will provide all resources. If you are over 18 please speak to Fr. Cyriacus or the Parish Secretary for more information on what this important role will entail.

**Bible Study:** The next Bible Study session will take place on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 7.45pm. This session will take a hybrid model, being conducted both face to face in the hall and via Zoom to allow more people to participate. All are welcome. If you are joining online, the Meeting ID is 826 8917 5235, Password 409515.

**Life in the Spirit:** Pope Francis has asked for the Life in the Spirit Seminars, which explore what it means to live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit, to be made widely available throughout the Church. Why not come and find out for yourself why the Pope is so keen on Life in the Spirit, by joining this year's diocesan Seminars? They start on St. George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April) and are being held at various locations around the diocese. These include Tuesday evenings at St. George's Cathedral and on Zoom, Wednesday evenings at St. Edmund's Beckenham and Monday evenings at Holy Innocents', Orpington, together with a Retreat Day at the Cathedral on Pentecost. Full details are via the QR code on the poster in the porch or email [southwarkrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:southwarkrenewal@gmail.com)

**Faith in Action:** Faith in Action 2024 is launching! All young people aged 9-18 are invited to get involved in this nationally recognised, exciting and engaging faith-driven awards scheme acknowledging and rewarding all the good deeds that young people are doing at home, in school and parish, and in the wider community. This year, the hub is just 10 minutes away, at St. James the Great in Petts Wood. Please scan the QR code on the flyer in the porch to register your child's attendance at Session 1. This session will be a 'Come and See' to find out more before signing up for the rest of the year.

**Young Adult Events:** St George's Cathedral hosts a monthly Young Adult Mass at 6pm on the first Sunday of every month, followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+). There are also weekly events and socials on Thursday evenings. Details can be found on the RCAOS website, Facebook, and Instagram @stgeorgesya

**Job Opportunity:** The Diocesan Education Service wishes to recruit a Trust Relationship Officer. This post is the first point of contact for two of the Catholic Academy Trusts (CATs) established within the Diocese and the schools aligned to that CAT. For more information visit <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/recruitment/>

**Parish Books:** We have noticed that the quantity of our parish books has decreased. These resources are provided for parishioners to use in the church. If you have any parish books at home, particularly hymn books and Stations of the Cross booklets, please return them as soon as possible. They can be left anonymously in the porch.

**Parishioners in Need:** If you are aware of a parishioner who is in need of support in any way, please contact Fr. Cyriacus or the Parish Secretary. This also applies to those who wish to receive the Eucharist at home.

### **Readings For The Week Ahead**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>18/03/24</b>	Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62	Ps 22		John 8:1-11
<b>19/03/24</b>	2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16	Ps 88:2-5,27-29	Romans 4:13,16-18,22	Matthew 1:16,18-21,24
<b>20/03/24</b>	Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28	Daniel 3:52-56		John 8:31-42
<b>21/03/24</b>	Genesis 17:3-9	Ps 104:4-9		John 8:51-59
<b>22/03/24</b>	Jeremiah 20:10-13	Ps 17:2-7		John 10:31-42
<b>23/03/24</b>	Ezekiel 37:21-28	Jeremiah 31:10-13		John 11:45-56

## **LIVE STREAMING**

Our 11am Sunday Mass is live-streamed and available on Youtube on the channel 'Crays Parish' or via this QR code.



## **CHURCH MINISTRIES**

	<b>16<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>READERS 6PM</b>	Chima L Winter	V Martis
<b>READERS 9AM</b>	M Quintavalle T Wickenden	J Garber T Wingfield
<b>READERS 11AM</b>	M Higgins P O'Halloran	M Esong L Okafor
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM</b>	S Fernandes	N Omo-Idahosa
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM</b>	J Laurent	T Wickenden
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM</b>	M Alademerin, H Anseline, M McEveney	N Adewale, M Ehiosun, G Greenspan
<b>CLEANING</b>	Team 3 – Anne-Marie Glancy	Team 4 – Chris Meaney
<b>LINEN</b>	Funmi Obende	Theresa Akagbosu

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND**

Please continue to pray for: Alison Hannah, Eleanor Smith, Monica Gallagher, Janet Sinclair, Jeanette Miller-Spice, Mary Hayes, Helen Efemini, Sister Maureen Fay, Mary Mackay, Daisy Hone, Michael Thompson, Mary Brophy, Katherine Pope, Clara Soares, Jennifer Smith, all the Sick Clergy of the Diocese and the housebound of the Parish.



**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE – NAMES FOR MARCH** We remember in our prayers: John Kent, Pearl Wood, Pasquale Cappucio, Lawrence Abu, Ekata Kuyan, Vincent Dunleavy, Martin Geraghty, Jeremiah Crowley, Roy Hawker, Roy Sinclair, Irene Rudd, Charles Wickenden, Edward Sabage, Mary Daly, Eleanor Sullivan, Mary Wakefield, Alexander Goslitski, Maria Fernandes, Augustine Juwah, Sheila

McNally, Marilena Donovan, Alan Sparrowhawk, Elsie Valins, Winifred Ferne, Michael Gray, Patrick King, Ronnie Byrne, Michael Walsh, Queenie Viliesid, Sunday-Lawrence Ksagmede, Elizabeth Duffy, Patrick McNally, Pauline Sheehan, George Clark, Esme Esterbrook, Margaret Forsythe, Carmela Said, Queenie Damerum, Michael Abu, Joana Ndango Anjorim, Frank Edmond, Rogers Knight, Jean Marrant, Margaret Murrice, Muriel Brenton, Mary Howard, Jerry McClelland, Gabriel Olushola Amire, Albert Manzi, Rosanna Barraclough and Mario Angeli.

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK

<p><b>Sunday: Mar 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)</b></p> <p>6pm (Vigil Mass): Michael Cox, RIP and Janet Tucker, WB</p> <p>9am Mass: Pro Populo</p> <p>11am Mass: Patrick Dunne, RIP <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i></p>	<p><b>Sat: Mar 23: A Day With Jesus</b></p> <p>10am: Rosary</p> <p>10.30am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>10.40am: Spiritual Reflection/Talk</p> <p>11am: Confession/Tea &amp; Coffee Break</p> <p>12pm: Sacrifice of the Mass and General Anointing of the Faithful</p> <p>6pm Mass: Mary Carron and Mary McNally, RIP</p>
<p><b>Mon: Mar 18: No Mass</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Tues: Mar 19: No Mass</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Wed: Mar 20: Feria</b></p> <p>6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>7.30pm: Fr. Cyriacus, BT</p> <hr/> <p><b>Thu: Mar 21: Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am: Angela Newton, WB</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fri: Mar 22: Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9am: Divine Mercy Novena</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Holy Souls</p> <p>7.30pm: Stations of the Cross</p>	<p><b>Sun: Mar 24: Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>9am Mass: Alexander Winter, 18<sup>th</sup> BT, Sir Michael Abu, RIP and Gabriel Olushola Amire, RIP</p> <p>11am Mass: Uchenna &amp; Nkem Egbuhuzor, BT and Obinna Nwafor, BT</p> <p><i>(11am Mass Livestreamed &amp; available on YouTube)</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b>          SI means Special Intention          SR means Speedy Recovery          BI means Blessed          GB means God's Blessings          GP means God's Protection          WB means Well-Being          TG means Thanksgiving          PI means Private Intentions          BT means Birthday Thanksgiving          WA means Wedding Anniversary          Pro Populo: People of the Parish  <b>Private Mass:</b> Mass to be said by the Priest alone</p>

### CONTACT & FOLLOW US

**Website:** <http://www.ourladyofthecrays.com/>

**Live streamed & past masses, YouTube channel 'crays parish':**

<https://www.youtube.com/@craysparish7800/streams>

**SVP Emergency No: 07598 347602/ Email [presidenta190213@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidenta190213@svp.org.uk)**