



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



Tel: 01689 821749 Email: crayvalley@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Priest Email: cyriacusokafor@rcaos.org.uk
Website: www.ourladyofthecrays.com

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

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

Our Lady's Pre-School - www.ourladypreschool.net
Manager: Anne-Marie Glancy Tel: 07983 660589

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

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
GAUDETE SUNDAY

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:4-5)

Although Advent is basically a preparation period, in the Third Sunday of Advent, the Church anticipates if only briefly, the coming mood of Christmas celebration. So, this Sunday is often referred to as the "Gaudete Sunday", derived from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in the Latin original, Gaudete "Rejoice". In the First Reading, Prophet Zephaniah's joyful exhortation presents a loving image of a merciful rather than a vindictive God, a God who comes to rescue His people. In the Second reading, St. Paul was insistent in reminding the Christian community of Philippi to be always happy in the Lord. In the Gospel, John reminds us that the only way to attain happiness is to give up sin and believe in God.



Joy or Happiness should, in fact, be the basic mood of every Christian. It should not be something artificial or forced, it has little to do with the high jinks we see during a socialising party, and is not determined by our material acquisition. It is rather something that bubbles up naturally from our sharing Christ's vision of life - abstaining from sin and loving God. Christian joy is therefore deep-rooted in the heart and is not incompatible with physical and emotional pain or difficult external circumstances. In this Holy season, God has empowered us to bring happiness, freedom and compassion to those around us. He wants us to use our material blessings, however little, to make somebody happy. May we also remember to pray constantly for His divine favours as the year gradually winds down in anticipation of the New Year.

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	Lord, have mercy.	Kyrie, eleison	Kyrie, eleison.
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy.	Christe, eleison	Christe, eleison.
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy.	Kyrie, eleison	Kyrie, eleison.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4b-d, 5-6

Response: *Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel*

Behold, God is my salvation! I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord is my strength and my praise, and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the springs of salvation. **R**

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds; proclaim that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing to the Lord for he has wrought wonders; let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4: 4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 3: 10-18

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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.**

Latin

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

***Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua.
Hosána in excélsis.***

Blessed is he who comes in the name of *Benedíctus qui venit in nómine*
the Lord. *Dómini.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosána in excélsis.

We shall pray the **Preface I of Advent** and say **Eucharistic Prayer III**

The Mystery of Faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 by 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 to fund the Christmas flowers in the church. As always, we are very grateful to our volunteer floristry team who provide such lovely floral displays each week.

Planned Giving and Stewardship Drive: Thank you to all those who have already submitted forms to volunteer within the parish and to those who have filled in the forms to sign up for the Gift Aid scheme or to set up/increase a standing order. If you haven't already filled in these forms, there are copies in the porch. A report on the outcome of the Stewardship Drive will be available in the New Year.

Christmas Offering: Envelopes are now in the porch for you to use to make your Christmas donations. Donations can also be made via the contactless machines. This is a gentle reminder that the Christmas collection is your personal offering to Fr. Cyriacus and does not go towards parish funds.

Extending a Welcome: Christmas is a wonderful time to invite your loved ones, friends and neighbours to Mass, whether it be those who haven't come to Church for a while or those who have never been. You can share one of our Christmas cards with them, so they have all the information about Mass times. If you do see a new face in the church, please do whatever you can to make them feel welcome in our parish so that they are encouraged to return in the New Year.

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.

Crib Appeal: This year, proceeds from the Crib Appeal will be sent to Right To Life. This is a charity whose core mission is to protect and defend the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.

Personal Christmas Cards: Fr. Cyriacus has written a Christmas card to each family in the parish. These are sorted alphabetically by surname and can be found in the porch. Cards sent between parishioners can be added to the box. Please make the effort to take your card and to keep all the envelopes in the correct section.

Parish Carol Service: You are invited to a service of carols and readings on Sunday the 15th of December at 6pm. Please join us for this lovely occasion as we move closer to Christmas.

Coffee Morning: The next Parish Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday the 19th of December after the morning Mass. All are welcome.

Altar Servers: All altar servers are encouraged to attend training at 1pm on Saturday the 21st of December. The Christmas party for this group will follow the training session.

Christmas Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: If you are able to read or minister at any of the Christmas and New Year Masses, please add your name to the sheet in the porch.

Parish Christmas Card: Our Parish Christmas cards are now available in the porch. They contain all the information about our Christmas Masses and services. Please take one or two extra cards and use them to invite friends or neighbours to join us at Christmas.

December Birthdays: On the weekend of the 28th/29th of December we will be celebrating all our parishioners who were born in the month of December. If you have a December birthday and your name is not already on the list in the porch, please add it on.

Hymn Books: If you put your name down to dedicate one of the new hymns books and have not already made payment for your book(s) please arrange to do so as soon as possible. We are now in a position to start entering the dedications into the new books.

Flame 2025: Flame is the largest Catholic youth gathering in the UK. It is a day of inspirational speakers, world-class Christian musicians and moments of prayer and Adoration. It will also feature our parishioner, Nike Adewale. Flame 2025 will take place on the 15th of March 2025 at the Ovo Arena, Wembley, and is open to young people from Year 9 to university age. The ticket price is £29pp. Please contact the Parish Office for more details if you'd like to attend.

Free Workshops: From today, every parishioner, as well as teachers and parent our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan> appeal in the parish. The letter can be found on the noticeboard in the porch.

Baptism: Any parents who wish to have their child Baptised in our parish will need to complete a preparation course entitled 'Pathways to Baptism'. The next course starts in December. For more information, please contact Reverend Longinus on longinusanyanjo@rcaos.org.uk

New Parishioners: If you are new to the parish, you are very welcome. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Cyriacus after Mass. Registration forms are available in the porch if you would like to be added to the Parish Database.

BANK DETAILS

For bank transfers to the Parish –
Account Name: RCAS Cray Valley
Account Number: 50533401
Sort Code: 60-16-03

Thank you for your generosity to your parish.

LIVE STREAMING

This parish routinely livestreams 11 AM Mass on Sundays between 10.30 AM and 12.30 PM on YouTube.

You may appear on camera **only** if you approach the altar without prior notice to the recording team during this time. The camera is set to avoid capturing parishioners receiving Holy Communion. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Priest or Communications Team.

Readings For The Week Ahead

	1st Reading	Psalm	Gospel
16/12/24	Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a	Ps 25:4-5b, 6-7,8-9	Matthew 21:23-27
17/12/24	Genesis 49:2,8-10	Ps 72:1-2,3-4b,7-8,17	Matthew 1:1-17
18/12/24	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19	Matthew 1:18-24
19/12/24	Judges 13:2-7,24-25a	Ps 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17	Luke 1:5-25
20/12/24	Isaiah 7:10-14	Ps 24:1-2,3-4b,5-6	Luke 1:26-38
21/12/24	Song of Solomon 2:8-14	Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21	Matthew 1:39-45

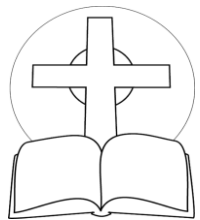
CHURCH MINISTRIES		
	14th & 15th December	21st & 22nd December
READERS 6PM	P Lobo	Chima G Selvaraj
READERS 9AM	A Garber T Wingfield	C Meaney F Garber
READERS 11AM	L Okafor T Ezekulie	W Chung J Smith
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	D Ekpoudom	S Fernandes
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	M Abu	T Meaney
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	E Williams, J Smith, M Alademerin	N Adewale, M Ehiosun, F Adewale
CLEANING	Team 2 – Mary Quintavalle	Team 3 – Anne-Marie Glancy
LINEN	Funmi Obende	Theresa Akagbosu

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND

Please continue to pray for: Alison Hannah, Eleanor Smith, Monica Gallagher, Jeanette Miller-Spice, Mary Hayes, Helen Efemini, Sister Maureen Fay, Mary Mackay, Michael Thompson, Mary Brophy, Clara Soares, Jennifer Smith, Mary O'Lone, Eamon Murphy, Shelagh Murphy, all the Sick Clergy of the Diocese and the housebound of the Parish.



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE – NAMES FOR DECEMBER



We remember in our prayers: Mary Twomey, Patrick Goode, Joseph Gray, Patrick Birmingham, John Freed, Helen Lobo, Sally Downes, Steven Spiller, Denis Prendergast, Hilary Heberton, Brian Glancy, Carlo Quintavalle, Emily Hill, Beatrice Mc, Annie Stanton, Connie O'Reilly, Mary Byrne, Margaret Farrell, Gemma Said, Michael Ryan, Winifred Lord, Margaret Forsythe, Paul James Collis, Kathleen Abbott, Martin Morrissey, Martha Herbert, Richard Sandison, John Lavelle, Patrick Donovan, Denis William Turner, Ronald Nixon, Michael Meaney, Mary Cahill, Anthony Ayorinde, Edward Treaty, Jody Luckhurst, Giovanni Regis, Mary Agnes Wough, Llewellyn Madden, James William Raven, Eduardo Seddon, Funso John Sunday Oke, Salim Moujalled, Victoria Emengini Abuah, Tom Foley, Joan Graham, Anne Betts, Kathleen O'Donoghue, Thomas Hopkins, Alfred Thompson, Terry Burns, Christina Lawlor, Mary Stanley and Joan Duncan.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

<p>Sunday: Dec. 15: Third Sunday of Advent (C)</p> <p>6pm (Vigil Mass): Jim Kent, RIP and Mary Brophy, SR</p> <p>9am Mass: Chris Meaney, BT and Evelyn North, BT</p> <p>11am Mass: Cath Cattigan, SR and Clement Ehiosun, BT</p> <p>6pm: Parish Carol Service</p> <p><i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i></p>	<p>Sat: Dec. 21: Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)</p> <p>5.15-5.45pm: Confessions</p> <p>6pm Vigil Mass: Keshari-Coelho Family, TG</p>
<p>Mon: Dec. 16: Feria</p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Fredrick Okafor, RIP</p> <hr/> <p>Tues: Dec. 17: No Mass</p> <hr/> <p>Wed: Dec. 18: Feria</p> <p>9am-6pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>7.30pm Mass: Holy Souls</p> <hr/> <p>Thu: Dec. 19: Feria</p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Holy Souls</p> <hr/> <p>Fri: Dec. 20: Feria</p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am: Holy Souls</p>	<p>Sun: Dec. 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)</p> <p>9am Mass: Francesco Centello, RIP</p> <p>11am Mass: Kitty Forsythe, GB</p> <p><i>(11am Mass Livestreamed & available on YouTube)</i></p> <p>Note: 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 Private Mass: 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