



**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.ourladyspreschool.net](http://www.ourladyspreschool.net)**  
Manager: Anne-Marie Glancy Tel: 01689 872495/ Mob: 07983 660589

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

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**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

*Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep" (John 10:1)*

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In the Parable of the Good Shepherd, Christ establishes the harmonious relationship that should exist between Him – the Good Shepherd, and we – the sheep. In this Parable, we notice that the Shepherd has the duty of loving, feeding and taking care of his sheep; while the sheep is expected to hear and recognize the voice of the True Shepherd, and obey him. The Good Shepherd is also the door of the sheep, through which one enters and finds pasture and salvation. Most importantly, the Good Shepherd is ever ready to protect the sheep in his care with his life, and will never allow any of them to perish.

Since no domesticated animal is as defenceless as a sheep, Christ reminds us today that we are utterly vulnerable to the many challenges of life; but that He is ever ready to protect and shield us as the Good Shepherd does. Jesus the Good Shepherd is the gate that leads to life; He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6), and no one can come to the Father except through him. Again, most of us have leadership positions in our families and various spheres of life. Christ equally expects us to be good shepherd, to put our life on the line in protecting the interests of those placed under our authority.

### **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>

### **The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory  
of God the Father. Amen**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2: 14a, 36-41**

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6**

***Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.***

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. **R**

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. **R**

**Second Reading: A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter 2: 20b-25**

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me.

**Alleluia!**

**THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to John 10: 1-10**

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

**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 IV of Easter** 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, FAITH NEWS & MISSION

**Second Collection:** The priesthood has always been at the heart of the Church. This Good Shepherd Sunday, we pray for vocations and support the Priest Training Fund, which forms men for service across our parishes, schools, hospitals, and communities. We currently have 9 seminarians, each costing around £30,000 per year over six years of formation. Your generosity helps make their calling possible.

👉 Donate online: [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF)

☎ Call: 020 7960 2504 (weekdays, 9am–5pm)

✉ Or use the envelopes at the back of church

### Leave a lasting legacy to the Church

Please consider remembering our church or the Priesthood in your Will. Find out more: [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy).

Thank you for your prayers and support.



**Gift Aid Appeal:** A message from David Philip, our Parish Treasurer.

*Thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal to join the gift aid scheme last weekend. The response was very good and I would just ask that if you requested to join the scheme you return the form I sent you either to the Parish Secretary, or to Fr Cyriacus. One query which came up several times was whether those who donate via standing order can Gift Aid other donations to the church. The answer is yes and all you need to do is put the money in an envelope with your gift aid number on it. We have additional envelopes for people with standing orders. There are 36 such packets of yellow envelopes at the back of the Church awaiting collection.*

**Cray Young Adults Network:** CYAN, the parish Young Adults group meets every second Sunday of the month in person and the last Friday of the month virtually. They are also holding a Games Night on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May at 7pm. If you are aged between 18 and 30 and would like to be involved in this group, please email [craysyoungadultsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:craysyoungadultsnetwork@gmail.com)

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

**200 Club:** The latest draw in our 200 Club was made last weekend and the winners are as follows-

March 2026	No. 6	Stella Hawker	£50
April 2026	No. 117	Alan Lavin	£50

**Community Fun Day:** St. Andrew's Church, Lower Rd, Orpington invite everyone to their Community Fun Day on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May from 12-4pm. There will be food, a fire engine, the Salvation Army Brass band, games and more.

**Legion of Mary:** The Parish Legion of Mary group meet each Sunday at 12.30pm in the Altar Server's Room. All are welcome to join them.

**Children's Sheets:** The parish provides special sheets to help our younger parishioners understand the liturgy of the week. If your child is aged 9 or over, they should take a copy of the 'Icthus' sheet. If you have a younger child, they should take the 'Look' sheet.

**Baptism:** If you are a practicing parishioner and would like to have your child Baptised here, please contact Reverend Longinus on [longinusanyanjo@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:longinusanyanjo@rcaos.org.uk).

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** If there is anyone sick or housebound in the parish that would benefit from regular visits by the SVP, or if there are any families or individuals in need, please contact Gabriel Greenspan on 07958 369383. Confidentiality is assured in all cases.

**New Parishioners:** If you are new to the parish, you are very welcome. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Cyriacus after Mass. If you would like to join our parish database, forms are available in the porch and can be returned to the Parish Office.

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

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>27/04/26</b>	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 42:2,3 Ps 43:3,4	John 10:11-18
<b>28/04/26</b>	Acts 11:19-26	Ps 87:1-7	John 10:22-30
<b>29/04/26</b>	1 John 1:5-2:2	Ps 103:1-4,8-9, 13-14,17-18	Matthew 11:25-30
<b>30/04/26</b>	Acts 13:13-25	Ps 89:2-3, 21-22,25,27	John 13:16-20
<b>01/05/26</b>	Acts 13:26-33	Ps 2:6-11	John 14:1-6
<b>02/05/26</b>	Acts 13:14-52	Ps 98:1-4	John 14:7-14

#### **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 the 11am Mass on Youtube between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Sundays. 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.

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

Please continue to pray for: Alison Hannah, Helen Efemini, Sister Maureen Fay, Mary Mackay, Clara Soares, Jennifer Smith, Mary O’Lone, Eamon Murphy, Shelagh Murphy, File Marku, Douglas Lewis, Terry Wingfield, Salma Lamina, Titus Mwangangi, all the Sick Clergy of the Diocese and the housebound of the Parish.



**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE – APRIL:** We remember in our prayers: Esther Obende, Vera Ekpiteta, Darren Phelps, Elizabeth Mary Cork, Christine Ann Robison, Frances Ellen Watson, Wilson Odibo, Anne Abbott, Geoffrey Plowman, Julie Beggan, Thomas O’Malley, Donato Iorio, Ayo Izugon, Patrick Francis Ryan, Margaret Christina Gardiner, Winifred Wingfield, Grace Aikhuele, Norman George Gibbs, Ian Park, Harry Beard, Charles Frederick Badger, James McNally, Eileen Mary Emmin, Thomas Gee, Janita Viliesid, Olisaeloka Abuah, Nell James, John Lawlor, Jerome Laurent, Ademola Adewale, Simeon Odoaba, Joyce Dewar, Ivan Muir-Clarke and Jeanette Thompson.

**CHURCH MINISTRIES**

	<b>25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
<b>READERS 6PM</b>	G Selvaraj P Lobo	D Fufeyin L Winter
<b>READERS 9AM</b>	M Quintavalle A Garber	T Wickenden M Francis
<b>READERS 11AM</b>	P Boateng N Cornelio	N Boateng A Olii
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM</b>	E North	D Winter
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM</b>	I Floyd T Wickenden	M Abu T Meaney
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM</b>	H Anseline M McEveney	N Adewale M Ehiosun
<b>CLEANING</b>	Team 4 – Chris Meaney	Team 1 – Funmi Adewale
<b>LINEN</b>	Titi Obende	Funmi Obende

<p><b>Sun:</b> Apr. 26: <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)</b></p> <p>6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Benefactors of the Parish and Mimie Esong, 16<sup>th</sup> BT</p> <p>9am Mass: Pro Populo</p> <p>11am Mass: Ogbueshi Augustine Chukwumaeze Juwah, 20<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary, RIP</p> <p><i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i></p>	<p><b>Sat:</b> May 2: <b>Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)</b></p> <p>6pm Vigil Mass: Carmen Ugaz de Guerra, RIP (One Year Death Anniversary)</p>
<p><b>Mon:</b> Apr. 27: <b>Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Martin Bridle, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Tues:</b> Apr. 28: <b>No Mass</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Wed:</b> Apr. 29: <b>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin &amp; Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe (Feast)</b></p> <p>6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>7.30pm Mass: Kay McCoy &amp; Nora Kelly, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Thu:</b> Apr. 30: <b>Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Katherine Bingley, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fri:</b> May 1: <b>St. Joseph the Worker</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Helen Grove, RIP</p>	<p><b>Sun:</b> May 3: <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)</b></p> <p>9am Mass: Ray Franklin, RIP</p> <p>11am Mass: Clement &amp; Margaret Ehiosun, 27<sup>th</sup> WA and Increase Esoe, BT</p> <p><b>Note:</b>  SI means Special Intention  SR means Speedy Recovery  Bl 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>