



**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](mailto:crayvalley@rcaos.org.uk)**  
**Parish Priest Email: [cyriacusokafor@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:cyriacusokafor@rcaos.org.uk)**  
**Website: [www.ourladyofthecrays.com](http://www.ourladyofthecrays.com)**

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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 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2026**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'* (John 14 :1,6)

The uniqueness of Christ, our high Priest, is that He is not incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us, but has been put to the test in exactly the same way as ourselves apart from sin (Heb 4:15); and who today in the Gospel, gives us himself as the model for a worthy and fulfilled life. Just before his death, He reassures his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1) and promises us a better place hereafter. In no unclear terms, he tells his disciples: "I am the way, and the truth and the life." (John 14:6).

Jesus believed His way is the cornerstone for all people. A cornerstone, we must remember, locates the site upon which a building will be constructed. It sets the characteristics of all the other stones that will surround it, along with their texture and their quality. All other stones are measured against the cornerstone. It is the essential stone which grounds the reality of the entire structure. Similarly, if we Christians are to summarise the way and the truth and the life of Jesus Christ, it would simply amount to Jesus' invitation to us to live together as members of His family. Interestingly, St. Peter in the Second Reading recognises the uniqueness of the believers who model their lives after Christ and calls them "a Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation and a People set apart (1 Peter 2:9).

In this fragmented, hostile, and broken world of ours, a world littered with broken hearts, broken promises and broken families, the salient question is, who should be our model? Christ is our model, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the way, the truth and the life. When we do acts of love, forgive people, share with others and pray for those who persecute us, we participate in doing what Jesus did and continues to do in our lives.

### **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 6: 1-7**

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19**

***Response:*** *May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R**

The word of the Lord is upright, and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth. **R**

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R**

**Second Reading: A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter 2: 4-9**

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Alleluia!**

**THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to John 14: 1-12**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

**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 V of Easter** and say **Eucharistic Prayer II**

#### 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

**Safeguarding Sunday 2026.** Sunday 3 May is Safeguarding Sunday. In line with today's Gospel, we are called to protect, called to care, called to act. Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday at [rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday](https://rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday) or via the QR code.



**May Devotion:** May is the month of Mary. We shall be saying the rosary before each Mass all through the month of May. Please join in this special devotion.

**Charismatics Group:** The Seat of Wisdom Catholic Charismatic Renewal Group will hold their next meeting via Zoom on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May from 4.30-5.30pm. The Zoom details are Meeting ID: 83889667814, Passcode: 021548

**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. 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)

**Gift Aid Appeal:** Following the recent Gift Aid appeal, 22 people filled in a form requesting to join the scheme but, to date, we have only received four signed agreements. Please send any forms to [davidphilip@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:davidphilip@rcaos.org.uk) or hand them in to the Parish Office.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation Classes:** Please note that, due to the Parish Pilgrimage, there will be no Communion or Confirmation Class on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Rosary for Life:** Archbishop John Wilson is calling on us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit [rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife](https://rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife)

**Encounter Pentecost:** Join the Southwark Archdiocese Catholic Charismatic team for a day of worship, prayer, and fellowship at St George's Cathedral on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May to celebrate Pentecost. The day, open to all, concludes with the Vigil Mass of Pentecost. Full programme at [encounterpentecost.com/programme](https://encounterpentecost.com/programme)

**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.

**Divine Mercy Novena:** The Divine Mercy Novena will be said at 9am each Friday, before the morning Mass.

**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). The next Pathways to Baptism course takes place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June.

**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>04/05/26</b>	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:3c-4, 6ab,7b,8a,17,21ab	Matthew 10:17-22
<b>05/05/26</b>	Acts 14:19-28	Ps 145:10-13,21	John 14:27-31a
<b>06/05/26</b>	Acts 15:1-6	Ps 122:1-5	John 15:1-8
<b>07/05/26</b>	Acts 15:7-21	Ps 96:1-3,10	John 15:9-11
<b>08/05/26</b>	Acts 15:22-31	Ps 57:8-12	John 15:12-17
<b>09/05/26</b>	Acts 16:1-10	Ps 100:1-3,5	John 15:18-21

#### **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.

<b>CHURCH MINISTRIES</b>		
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>READERS 6PM</b>	D Fufeyin L Winter	Chima G Winter
<b>READERS 9AM</b>	T Wickenden M Francis	F Garber C Meaney
<b>READERS 11AM</b>	N Boateng A Ollie	M Higgins P O'Halloran
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM</b>	D Winter	D Ekpoudom
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM</b>	M Abu T Meaney	K Wingfield T Wickenden
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM</b>	N Adewale M Ehiosun	F Adewale N Esong
<b>CLEANING</b>	Team 1 – Funmi Adewale	Team 2 – Mary Quintavalle
<b>LINEN</b>	Funmi Obende	Theresa Akagbosu

**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 - MAY**



We remember in our prayers: Margaret Downes, Peter Storer, Mary Ann McNally, Julianna Akogbosu, Anthony Reeves, Gerald Coleman, James Bryne, Isobel Kooper, Bill Glancy, M.Fitzpatrick, Bridget Kelly, Charles Plowman, Owen Wait, Michael Downes, Margaret Sheridan, Emanuel Camilleri, Nancy Jarrold, Francis William Allen, Owen Toland, Sheila James, Charles James, Frank McMahan, Josephine Della, Rose Bateman, John Sheridan, Sheila Conway, Michael Lynch, John Fleming, Joanne Walker, Terence Crowley, Phyllis Eyre, John Twomey, Veronica Esenwah, Patrick O'Shea, Kate Wait, Alexander Kelly, Robert Burchell, Eilish O'Sullivan, Stella Hill, Thomas Murray, Raja Perera, Charlotte Wickenden, Kevin Dwane, Catherin Egbukwu, Barry Clarke, Eustace Rudolph, Sylvia Sobemheim, Dr. Tony Juwah, John Gerreyn, Danny McNally, Michael Lyons, Rose Bateman, Denis O'Donoghue and Vidmantas Grigaliunas.

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK

<p><b>Sun: May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)</b>          6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Carmen Ugaz De Guerra, RIP (One Year Death Anniversary)          9am Mass: Ray Franklin, RIP          11am Mass: Clement &amp; Margaret Ehiosun, 27<sup>th</sup> WA and Increase Esoe, BT  <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i></p>	<p><b>Sat: May 9: Vigil of Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)</b>          5.15-5.45pm: Confessions          6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Thomas &amp; Gerry Butler, RIP</p>
<p><b>Mon: May 4: The English Martyrs (Feast)</b>          8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament          9.30am Mass: Brenda Cronin &amp; Family, WB</p> <hr/> <p><b>Tues: May 5: No Mass</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Wed: May 6: Feria</b>          6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament          7.30pm Mass: Bill Glancy, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Thu: May 7: Feria</b>          8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament          9.30am Mass: Vincent, Eustace, Irene &amp; Rudolph, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fri: May 8: Feria</b>          8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament          9.30am Mass: Francis &amp; Ubelina Fernandes, RIP</p>	<p><b>Sun: May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)</b>          9am Mass: Anthony Smith and Carmelina Desouza, RIP          11am Mass: Nelly Esong, BT and Bobby Esong, 14<sup>th</sup> 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>