



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



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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.ourladyspreschool.net
Manager: Anne-Marie Glancy Tel: 01689 872495/ Mob: 07983 660589

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

SUNDAY 12TH JULY 2026
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFRICAN – CARIBBEAN DAY

'As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.' (Matthew 13:23)

The categorization of Christians, according to their commitment to the gospel principles, is clearly depicted in the Parable of the Sower. The first category shows the laissez-fair Christians: those who participate in the liturgy in fulfilment of their Sunday obligations. These are the seed that fell along the path. The second category shows fairly committed Christians who are usually swept away by the trials and tribulations of the world. This group of Christians earnestly desire to serve God but are put off at the slightest temptation; these are the seed that fell on rocky grounds. The third category shows Christians who are not really committed to the word, but are more attractive to the flamboyant liturgies and other ceremonies organized by the Church. The materialistic nature of the Church's celebration is the central point of their attraction: these are the seed that fell among thorns. The last category, the seed that fell on good soil, are very committed Christians who are ever ready to defend their faith in words and actions.

The crucial question is, where do you belong? The Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church are geared towards moulding us into that seed that fell on rich soil. Hence, Christ expects us to be committed to him in words and actions. May we ask God for the grace to be faithful to our Christian lives so as to be able to bear fruit in plenty.

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.

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 Prophet Isaiah 55: 10-11

Read in Igbo (Nigerian) at the 11am Mass

Thus says the Lord: 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 65: 10a-d, 10e-11, 12-13, 14

Response: *Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.*

You visit the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over to prepare the grain. **R**

And thus you prepare it: you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. **R**

You crown the year with your bounty. Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows. The hills are girded with joy. **R**

The meadows clothed with flocks. The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing! **R**

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

8: 18-23

Read in Pidgin English (Cameroonian) at the 11am Mass

Brothers and Sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Read in Lozi (Zambian) at the 11am Mass

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 13: 1-9

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.'

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 Sundays in Ordinary Time** 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)***

PARISH INFORMATION, FAITH NEWS & MISSION

Second Collection Next Weekend: There will be a second collection next weekend in aid of Stella Maris. This is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide. Its members provide practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality or belief. Port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare service and advice, practical help, care and friendship. Stella Maris in Great Britain is part of an international network working in more than 250 ports around the world. 90% of world trade is transported by ship, however the life of a seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their family and loved ones and often working in harsh conditions. Stella Maris relies wholly on voluntary contributions, and can only continue its work through the generous donations of its supporters, particularly this collection. Please note this collection has been postponed from this weekend due the African-Caribbean celebration.

African-Caribbean Day: Today we are celebrating our parishioners from the African and Caribbean communities. They are all a blessing to us. The readings, intercessions and hymns at the 11am Mass will reflect the different African and Caribbean countries represented in our parish. All are welcome to join us after the 11am Mass for food and entertainment. Please note that there will be no general parking on the church grounds this Sunday.

Father Cyriacus' Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass: Ahead of his departure from the parish this summer, we will be holding a Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass for Fr. Cyriacus on Friday the 17th of July at 7pm. Please make note of the following information:

- For health and safety reasons, once the church has reached capacity we will be asking parishioners who come later to make their way to the hall where the Mass will be broadcast. Please ensure you arrive in good time to be seated in an orderly fashion and follow the instructions of the stewards.
- Parking on church grounds will be very limited. If you are able to walk or take public transport to the church, we encourage you to do so. If you do have to park here, please be considerate of other parishioners and do not block anyone in.
- The Mass will be followed by a Bring and Share supper where parishioners are invited to bring a plate of food to share with the parish family.
- We need volunteers to steward, set up, clear up and serve food/drink. Please add your name to the list in the porch if you are able to help.
- As we expect this Mass to be well attended, we ask parents of younger children to closely supervise them at all times for their safety.

Choir Practice: In preparation for the Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass, the next choir practice will take place on Thursday 16th July from 7pm. All choir members are encouraged to attend.

Farewell Collection: If you would like to contribute to a farewell collection for Fr. Cyriacus, you can donate via the following methods:

- Cash or cheque (made payable to RCAS Cray Valley) in an envelope marked 'Fr. C Collection'.
- Bank transfers to Account: RCAS Cray Valley. Sort Code: 60-16-03. Account Number: 50533401. Reference: Fr C Collection
- Contactless machines in the church. Press the button that says 'Fr. Cyriacus Collection.'
- Use the donate button on the parish website, selecting the button that says 'Fr. Cyriacus Collection' or use the QR code.



Message Book: If you would like to leave a personal message for Fr. Cyriacus to mark his time in the parish, there is a book in the porch which will be presented to him as a memento before he goes.

July Birthdays: On the weekend of the 25th and 26th of July we will be celebrating all our parishioners who were born in the month of July. If you have a July birthday and your name is not already on the list in the porch, please add it on.

Mass Attendance Record: If you plan to apply for a school place or for any of the Sacramental programmes over the next few months, you are asked to take a Mass Attendance Record from the porch and ensure it is signed by the priest at the end of each Mass. This will assist in the application process when the time comes.

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

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.

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.

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

Legal Advice: Legal advice is available to Our Lady of the Crays parishioners. Please contact Pedro on 07888 691332.

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:

	1st Reading	Psalm	Gospel
13/07/26	Isaiah 1:10-17	Ps 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23	Matthew 10:34-11:1
14/07/26	Isaiah 7:1-9	Ps 48:2-8	Matthew 11:20-24
15/07/26	Isaiah 10:5-7,13-16	Ps 94:5-10,14-15	Matthew 11:25-27
16/07/26	Isaiah 26:7-9,12,16-19	Ps 102:13-21	Matthew 11:28-30
17/07/26	Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8	Is 38:10-12,16	Matthew 12:1-8
18/07/26	Micah 2:1-5	Ps 10:1-4,7-8,14	Matthew 12:14-21

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.

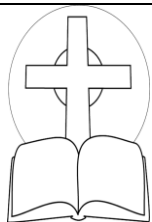
<u>CHURCH MINISTRIES</u>		
	11th & 12th July	18th & 19th July
READERS 6PM	V Martis A Dsouza	G Selvaraj P Lobo
READERS 9AM	J Garber M Quintavalle	A Garber T Wickenden
READERS 11AM	AFRICAN – CARIBBEAN DAY READERS	C Olii M McEveney
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	J Smith	E North
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	K Wingfield T Wickenden	T Meaney M Abu
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	F Adewale N Esong	E Williams M Alademerin
CLEANING	Team 2 – Mary Quintavalle	Team 3-Anne-Marie Glancy
LINEN	Helen Coker	Titi Obende

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, Julie Langford, Alzira Miranda, Stella Hawker, Pauline Burgess, all the Sick Clergy of the Diocese and the housebound of the Parish.



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE – NAMES FOR JULY



We remember in our prayers: Miriam Kamya, Elizabeth Adams, Ellen Parsons, Abosede Shoyombo, Cedric Hannah, Mary Ellen Grealis, Alice Pritchard, Patrick Groves, Mary Waddingham, Jim Downes, Marie Celeste Baker, Eileen Dwane, Bernard Cusack, Dominic Fernandes, Hilda Abbott, Kathleen O'Brien, Harry Downes, Thomas Anderson, Patricia Shannon, Elliot Orodu, Joseph Alagba, Abosede Mann, Eileen Telesia, Appollonia Isiofin, Frank John Trebisoni, Ifanahiola Calista, Ebere Mere, Maglo Netto, Yolande Boucher, Colin Netherrot, Lucy Mruajog-wa, Ada Kale, Benson Adelaja, Annie Ongal, Nicholas Ifebajo, Karoline Egwenu, Alan Stuart, Grace Musami, Peggy Coleman, Antonio Goes and Cornelius Lehane

DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sun: July 12: Fifteenth Sunday (A) (African & Caribbean Day Celebration) 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Cornelius Lehane, RIP (2nd Death Anniversary) 9am Mass: Anthonio Goes, RIP 11am Mass: Richard Egwenu & Karoline Egwenu, RIP and Amire Family, TG <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i>	Sat: July 18: Vigil of Sixteenth Sunday (A) 5.15-5.45pm: Confessions 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Andrew Williams, WB
Mon: July 13: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Tues: July 14: No Mass Wed: July 15: St. Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (Memorial) 6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: Margaret & Ken Nuttman, WB and Alison Hannah, WB Thu: July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Fri: July 17: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9am: Divine Mercy Novena 9.30am Mass: Rev. Longinus Anyanjo, 64th BT 7pm: Farewell & Thanksgiving Mass for Fr. Cyriacus	Sun: July 19: Sixteenth Sunday (A) 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Clement Ehiosun, TG for Exam Success and Dolly & Jerry McKertick, GB Note: 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 Private Mass: Mass to be said by the Priest alone

Website: <http://www.ourladyofthecrays.com/>
Live streamed & past masses, YouTube channel 'crays parish':
<https://www.youtube.com/@craysparish7800/streams>