



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



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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 26TH JULY 2026
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

'The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (Matthew 13:49-50).

In our modern world where there is plurality of values and confusing role models, the Church, today, reminds us that we need the wisdom of God in order to be able to discern what is right and wrong. In the First reading, King Solomon was presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make his request before God; he asked God to bestow him with the gift of wisdom. In the parable of the Hidden Treasures narrated in the Gospel, Christ not only reinforces the end-time message of last Sunday readings, but also stresses the need to apply wisdom in the search of heavenly realities. Like the parable of the darnel and wheat, the parable of the dragnet unveils the reality of end-time judgement. Thus, "This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the upright, to throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth" (Matthew 13:49-50).

Jesus encourages us today to place God and heavenly things at the top of our priorities. It is only the wisdom of God that enables us to discern what is right and wrong, and to treasure heaven like a precious pearl. Like Solomon, may we constantly implore God to grant us the gift of wisdom so as to become dedicated and committed Christians. The truth is that when we live to possess this precious pearl – Wisdom - we create a better world for ourselves, our siblings, our children, our families and our neighbours at large.

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 First Book of Kings 3: 5-6a, 7-12

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 119: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

Response: *O Lord, how I love your law!*

You, O Lord, are my portion; I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold. **R**

Let your merciful love console me by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live, for your law is my delight. **R**

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts, and hate false ways. **R**

Your decrees are wonderful indeed; therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light, and understanding to the simple. **R**

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans
8: 28-30

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 13: 44-52

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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 VI 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

Gratitude: Fr. Cyriacus would like to offer his thanks to all those who organised, contributed to and attended his Farewell and Thanksgiving Mass and the reception afterwards. He is very grateful for the many gifts, cards and words of appreciation he received from parishioners.

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.

August Cover: We are grateful to Fr. Joseph who will be travelling from Rome to look after the parish in August. His presence means that the normal Mass schedule will be continue for the summer. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Joseph back to the parish.

Parish Office: Please note that the Parish Office will close on the 31st of July, reopening on Thursday the 20th of August.

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

CAFOD Prayer Request: CAFOD is looking to expand its collection of prayers for the feast of Pentecost next year. Their Theology Team have advised that some of the possible themes to consider are: unity, peace, courage, mission and going out into the world, the global Church, feeling empowered by the Holy Spirit and drawing on God's strength as we seek his kingdom. The prayers will be shared on CAFOD's website and may also be made into a CAFOD prayer card to be shared in parishes in future years. The deadline for sending through your prayer(s) is Friday the 18th of December. Submissions should be sent to nanto-awuakye@cafod.org.uk

Requesting Mass for a Particular Intention: It is a long-established and laudable Catholic custom to ask that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Every Mass is offered for the glory of God and the salvation of the world; nevertheless, the priest may also offer the Mass for a specific intention. In this parish, Mass intentions are usually published in the newsletter.

Anyone may request that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Masses are commonly offered for the welfare of an individual or family, in thanksgiving, for a special need, or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

When requesting a Mass, it is customary to make an offering as a sign of one's particular participation in the offering of Mass and in support of the Church's

ministry. This offering is not a payment for the Mass, and no one is obliged to make one. The suggested offering is £10; some give less, some give more, and some are unable to give anything. Please never feel that a Mass cannot be offered for your intention because of financial difficulty. The grace of the Mass is never bought or sold. Its true price has already been paid for us in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Mass intention envelopes are available in the church porch.

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. The next Pathways to Baptism course will take place via Zoom on the 4th and 11th of August.

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
27/07/26	Jeremiah 13:1-11	Deuteronomy 32:18-21	Matthew 13:31-35
28/07/26	Jeremiah 14:17-22	Ps 79:8,9,11,13	Matthew 13:36-43
29/07/26	Jeremiah 15:10,16-21	Ps 59:2-5,10-11,17-18	Luke 10:38-42
30/07/26	Jeremiah 18:1-6	Ps 146:2,4-6	Matthew 13:47-53
31/07/26	Jeremiah 26:1-9	Ps 69:5,8-10,14	Matthew 13:54-58
01/08/26	Jeremiah 26:11-16,24	Ps 69:15-16, 30-31,33-34	Matthew 14:1-12

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.

CHURCH MINISTRIES

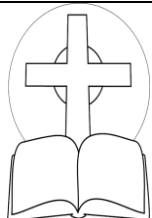
	25th & 26th July	1st & 2nd August
READERS 6PM	L Winter D Fufeyin	G Winter Chima
READERS 9AM	M Francis F Garber	R Fernandes C Meaney
READERS 11AM	P Boateng N Cornelio	N Boateng A Olii
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	D Ekpoudom	S Fernando
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	I Floyd K Wingfield	T Wickenden T Meaney
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	M McEveney N Adewale	M Ehiosun F Adewale
CLEANING	Team 4-Chris Meaney	Team 1-Funmi Adewale
LINEN	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, 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 26: Seventeenth Sunday (A) 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Benefactors of the Parish and Ralph Almeida, RIP (4 Month Death Anniversary) 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Grace Monde, RIP and Hope Ejerovbo, DB <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i>	Sat: Aug. 1: Vigil of Eighteenth Sunday (A) 5.15-5.45pm: Confessions 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Nkechi Scholastica Izuchukwu and Christopher Ifeanyi Ezeonwu, Wedding Blessing
Mon: July 27: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Tues: July 28: No Mass Wed: July 29: Ss. Mary, Martha and Lazarus (Memorial) 6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: Holy Souls and Margaret Nuttman, WB Thu: July 30: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Fri: July 31: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9am: Divine Mercy Novena 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls	Sun: Aug. 2: Eighteenth Sunday (A) 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Salma Lamina, SR 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>