



**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](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**

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**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: 07983 660589

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

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**SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2026**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY**

*'And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied.'* (Matthew 14: 19-20)

Our Sunday readings show that our God is a loving and compassionate Father; a God who is interested in our affairs; a God who goes out to search for us; a God who invites us to have food and drink in plenty. In the first reading Isaiah presents this picture vividly: "Thus says the Lord, come he who has no money, come, buy and eat, come buy milk and wine without money" (Isaiah 55:1). The notion of buying milk and wine without money is apparently ridiculous for buying or effective demand is always associated with having purchasing power; an exchange of liquid cash for goods between the buyer and the seller. For God, the concept of buying here has no economic undertone. No wonder He explains in the subsequent verses that all He needs is for us to come to Him, and our soul will live and enjoy milk and wine.

The Gospel account presents us with a practical instance of how God can provide for His people even when all hope is lost. Hence, the feeding of the five thousand men, besides women and children, is not only miraculous, but also shows us the loving and compassionate nature of Jesus Christ. Against this backdrop, let us be confident that God will always provide for us. Like God our Father, may we be compassionate and sensitive to the needs of others; and may we always give a helping hand to the Hungry and the less privilege in our community. If we can only spare a thought about those around us, then the world would be a better place for each and every one of us.

### **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 Prophet Isaiah 55: 1-3**

Thus says the Lord: 'Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.'

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

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145: 8-9, 15-16, 17-18**

***Response: You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord.***

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **R**

The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
You open your hand and satisfy  
the desire of every living thing. **R**

The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and holy in all his deeds.  
The Lord is close to all who call him,  
who call on him in truth. **R**

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

**8: 35, 37-39**

Brothers and Sisters: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**Alleluia!**

**THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 14: 13-21**

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the town. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**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 VII of Sundays in Ordinary Time** 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)***

### **PARISH INFORMATION, FAITH NEWS & MISSION**

**Gratitude:** Fr. Cyriacus would like to express his gratitude for the many gifts, cards and words of appreciation he received from parishioners. He has now left for his holiday and will start his new post on his return.

**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 is currently closed for the summer break and will reopen on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

**First Holy Communion Programme:** We are now inviting applications for the next First Holy Communion Programme. If you have a child in Year 3 or above and you are a practicing parishioner at Our Lady of the Crays, please email the parish office for an application form. The closing date for applications is Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2026. We are unable to accept applications after this date, so please ensure you apply in plenty of time.

**Communion and Confirmation Photos:** We have a number of USB sticks containing the official photos from First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses that are still awaiting collection from the parish office. These are from 2025 and 2026. If you feel any of these may belong to you, please arrange to collect them asap. Any USB sticks that are uncollected by the end of August will be disposed of.

**Farewell Collection:** If you would like to contribute to the 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.



**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.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Submissions should be sent to [nanto-awuakye@cafod.org.uk](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:longinusanyanjo@rcaos.org.uk). The next Pathways to Baptism course will take place via Zoom on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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:**

|                 | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>   | <b>Psalm</b>                    | <b>Gospel</b>            |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>03/08/26</b> | Jeremiah 28:1-17                | Ps 119:29,43,<br>79-80,95,102   | Matthew 14:22-36         |
| <b>04/08/26</b> | Jeremiah 30:1-2,<br>12-15,18-22 | Ps 102:16-21,<br>29,22-23       | Matthew 15:1-2,<br>10-14 |
| <b>05/08/26</b> | Jeremiah 31:1-7                 | Jer 31:10-13                    | Matthew 15:21-28         |
| <b>06/08/26</b> | Daniel 7:9,10,13-14             | Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9                 | Matthew 17:1-9           |
| <b>07/08/26</b> | Nahum 1:15;2:2;<br>3:1-3,6-7    | Deuteronomy<br>32:35b-36a,39,41 | Matthew 5:10             |
| <b>08/08/26</b> | Habakkuk 1:12-2:4               | Ps 9:8-13                       | Matthew 17:14-20         |

### **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**

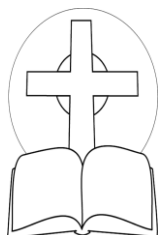
|                                    | <b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b> | <b>8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 9<sup>th</sup> August</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>READERS 6PM</b>                 | G Winter<br>Chima                                 | V Martis<br>A Dsouza                              |
| <b>READERS 9AM</b>                 | R Fernandes<br>C Meaney                           | J Garber<br>M Quintavalle                         |
| <b>READERS 11AM</b>                | N Boateng<br>A Ollie                              | M Higgins<br>P O'Halloran                         |
| <b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM</b>  | S Fernando                                        | N Omo-Idahosa                                     |
| <b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM</b>  | T Wickenden<br>T Meaney                           | M Abu<br>I Floyd                                  |
| <b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM</b> | M Ehiosun<br>F Adewale                            | N Esong<br>E Williams                             |
| <b>CLEANING</b>                    | Team 1-Funmi Adewale                              | Team 2-Mary Quintavalle                           |
| <b>LINEN</b>                       | Theresa Akagbosu                                  | Ann Kane                                          |

### **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 AUGUST**



We remember in our prayers: Elizabeth Hine, Bright Aikhuele, Mary Prendergast, Jim Tarrant, William Turner, Carlos Fernandes, Pauline Lawrence, Jack Neame, Raymond Mondesir, Robert McGarr, Mark Brennan, Baba Mwajama, George Farrell, Joseph Corera, Patrick Donovan, Peter Cilia, Jim Farrell, Liam Tasker, Elizabeth Taylor, Felix Morris, Ellen Graves, Tolentina Fernandes, Pamela Rutledge, Georgina Gomez, Joseph Forsythe, Mary Camilleri, Ann Clark, Daniel Schoth, Tim O'Callaghan, Jon Kay, Reuben Palfreyman, Veronica Shelley-Pearce and Kenneth Highland.

## **DIARY FOR THE WEEK**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Sun: Aug. 2: Eighteenth Sunday (A)</b></p> <p>6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Nkechi Scholastica Izuchukwu and Christopher Ifeanyi Ezeonwu, Wedding Blessing</p> <p>9am Mass: Pro Populo</p> <p>11am Mass: Salma Lamina, SR and Doubra Fufeyin, BT</p> <p><i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Sat: Aug. 8: Vigil of Nineteenth Sunday (A)</b></p> <p>5.15-5.45pm: Confessions</p> <p>6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Fredrick Okafor, RIP</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Mon: Aug. 3: Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Carlos Fernandes, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Tues: Aug. 4: No Mass</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Wed: Aug. 5: Feria</b></p> <p>6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>7.30pm Mass: Holy Souls</p> <hr/> <p><b>Thu: Aug. 6: Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Pauline Mary Lawrence, RIP</p> <hr/> <p><b>Fri: Aug. 7: Feria</b></p> <p>8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament</p> <p>9am: Divine Mercy Novena</p> <p>9.30am Mass: Holy Souls</p> | <p><b>Sun: Aug. 9: Nineteenth Sunday (A)</b></p> <p>9am Mass: Pro Populo</p> <p>11am Mass: Funmi Adewale, BT; Adejoke Okunowo, BT; Jennifer Smith, BT</p> <p><b>Note:</b><br/> SI means Special Intention<br/> SR means Speedy Recovery<br/> Bl means Blessed<br/> GB means God's Blessings<br/> GP means God's Protection<br/> WB means Well-Being<br/> TG means Thanksgiving<br/> PI means Private Intentions<br/> BT means Birthday Thanksgiving<br/> WA means Wedding Anniversary<br/> Pro Populo: People of the Parish<br/> <b>Private Mass:</b> Mass to be said by the Priest alone</p> |

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