



OUR LADY OF THE CRAYS RC CHURCH, CRAY VALLEY
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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: 07983 660589

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

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 2026
NINETEENTH SUNDAY

'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.' (Matthew 14: 31-32).

The significance of the mountain as a place of prayer and quietude is clearly demonstrated in the First and Gospel readings. In the First reading, Elijah's escape from the hurricane in his life landed him at Mount Horeb, where God revealed Himself in quietude and calm whisper, and not in the noise that characterize our modern world. In the Gospel, Jesus shows the need to be spiritually replenished through prayer, and the most appropriate place for such encounter is the mountain. For Christ, mountain is a place of eschatological revelation, of solitude and nearness to God; it is where revelations about life, death and coming of the kingdom are revealed.

Notice that Jesus performed two miracles after the mountain experience: walking on the sea and calming the storm. Two major lessons can be deduced from the readings of today. First, Christ reminds us of the importance of prayer in our lives, and that we must spare time despite our busy schedule, to daily interact with God. The moment we lose this personal communion with God, we find it impossible to handle the challenges in our lives. Second, we need to repose utter confidence and faith in God. Recollect that Peter trusted Jesus and was able to make plunge himself on the sea, but lost his bearing the moment he began to doubt. Faith involves a leap into absurdity: it does not consider impossibilities; it forges ahead believing the best for nothing is impossible for God. May God continually increase our faith in Him.

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 19: 9a, 11-13a

In those days: Elijah reached Horeb, the mount of God. There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him. And he said, 'Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.' And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85: 9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14

***Response:* Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Righteousness will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way. **R**

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

9: 1-5

Brothers and Sisters: I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit — that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers and sisters, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 14: 22-33

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied: Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.' And Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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 VIII 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

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 25th of September 2026. We are unable to accept applications after this date, so please ensure you apply in plenty of time.

Parish Office: Please note that the Parish Office is currently closed for the summer break and will reopen on Thursday the 20th of August.

Pre-School: In September, Our Lady's Pre-School will be celebrating fifteen years since it first opened in our church hall. The pre-school currently has vacancies for children from 2 years old. Funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is available. For further information please visit ourladypreschool.net or phone 07983 660589.

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.



August Birthdays: On the weekend of the 29th and 30th of August we will be celebrating all our parishioners who were born in the month of August. If you have an August 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 Apostolate: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London, is holding a Celebration of St. Faustina's birthday at Aylesford Priory on Monday the 31st of August from 10.30am to 4pm. This day of reflection will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

March for Life: Join Archbishop John Wilson at the March for Life UK, Saturday the 5th of September from 10am to 5pm. This will include the Pro-Life Family Summit and Youth Summit. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk.

Building a Better Marriage: A one-day course for married couples of any age to explore their relationship, deepen communication, and reflect on the Church's call to marriage. No group sharing and all discussion remains private to each couple. The final course of 2026 will be held on the 3rd of October at West Norwood parish. Booking is essential, contact mflkent@rcaos.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. 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. If you would like to join our parish database, forms are available in the porch.

FINANCE

If you would like to donate to the parish, you can do so via the QR code below or contact the Parish Office for our bank details.



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.

Readings For The Week Ahead:

	1st Reading	Psalm	Gospel
10/08/26	2 Corinthians 9:6-10	Ps 112:1-2,5-9	John 12:24-26
11/08/26	Ezekiel 2:8-3:4	Ps 119:14,24,72, 103,111,131	Matthew 18:1- 5,10,12-14
12/08/26	Ezekiel 9:1-7;10: 18-22	Ps 113:1-6	Matthew 18:15-20
13/08/26	Ezekiel 12:1-12	Ps 78:56-59, 61-62	Matthew 18:21-19:1
14/08/26	Ezekiel 16:1-15,60-63	Is 12:2-3,4b-d, 5-6	Matthew 19:3-12
15/08/26	Ezekiel 18:1- 10,13b,30-32	Ps 51:12-15,18- 19	Matthew 19:13-15

CHURCH MINISTRIES

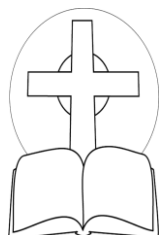
	8th & 9th August	15th & 16th August
READERS 6PM	V Martis A Dsouza	G Selvaraj P Lobo
READERS 9AM	J Garber M Quintavalle	A Garber T Wickenden
READERS 11AM	M Higgins P O'Halloran	K Olii M Esong
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	N Omo-Idahosa	J Laurent
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	M Abu I Floyd	K Wingfield T Wickenden
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	N Esong E Williams	M Alademerin M McEveney
CLEANING	Team 2-Mary Quintavalle	Team 3-Anne-Marie Glancy
LINEN	Ann Kane	Ese Temeinor

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

Sun: Aug. 9: Nineteenth Sunday (A) 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Fredrick Okafor, RIP 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Funmi Adewale, BT; Adejoke Okunowo, BT; Jennifer Smith, BT <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i>	Sat: Aug. 15: Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary(A) 5.15-5.45pm: Confessions 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Kamsi Chukwuma and Philip Nwaga, Wedding Blessing
Mon: Aug. 10: St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr (Feast) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Remigius Okafor, RIP Tues: Aug. 11: No Mass Wed: Aug. 12: Feria 6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: Alison Hannah, WB Thu: Aug. 13: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Fri: Aug. 14: St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9am: Divine Mercy Novena 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls	Sun: Aug. 16: The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) 9am Mass: Fr. Stanley Anaedo, RIP 11am Mass: Pro Populo 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>