



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

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: 07983 660589

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

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2026

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God. (Revelation 12:5)

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is the paramount Feast of our Lady, as it commemorates her passing, body and soul, into glory in heaven where she stands beside her son 'in garments of gold'. This doctrine is one of the four dogmas of the Church concerning our Blessed Mother. The other dogmas are: Mother of God – Council of Ephesus in 431 AD; Virginal Birth – Lateran Council in 649 AD; Immaculate Conception – 1854 on Dec.8. The dogma of Assumption was promulgated on Nov.1, 1950. However, it was widely believed by the earliest Christians way long before its proclamation by Pope Pius XII. This dogma teaches that at the end of her earthly existence, Mary was taken up into heaven, soul and body. This dogma, although miraculous, is not unusual, as holy people in the Scriptures had similar experience: Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:12).

Our Blessed Mother deserves this privilege because of her role in our Salvation History. Just as the Story of the Fall cannot be told without the contributions of Adam and Eve, so the Story of our Salvation cannot be told without the collaborative effort of Jesus and Mary. Today's Feast reminds us of our devotion to our Lady. And as Catholics, our greatest devotion to our Lady is seen in the Rosary. Let us on this Feast reawaken our reverence for this Holy Woman, as her powerful intercession will continue to sustain us in this perilous journey of faith. The Blessed Virgin Mary truly leads the Way; she fulfilled her vocation in humility and given her Immaculate Conception, the grave was no place for her body, a feat realised in her Assumption into heaven.

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 – READINGS FOR THE VIGIL MASS

**First Reading: A reading from the First Book of Chronicles 15: 3-4, 15-16;
16: 1-2**

In those days: David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it. And David gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites. And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord. David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.

And they brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 132: 6-7, 9-10, 13-14

***Response:* Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest, you and the ark of your strength.**

We heard of it at Ephrata; we found it in the plains of Yearim.

'Let us go to the place of his dwelling; let us bow down at his footstool.' **R**

Your priests shall be clothed with justice; your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant, do not reject your anointed. **R**

For the Lord has chosen Sion; he has desired it for his dwelling:
'This is my resting place from age to age; here have I desired to dwell. **R**

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
15: 54b-57

Brothers and Sisters: When the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are those who hear the word of the God and keep it.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 11: 27-28

At that time: As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD – READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASSES

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 45: 10, 11, 12, 16

Response: On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. **R**

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give hear:
forget your own people and your father's house. **R**

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. **R**

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. **R**

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
15: 20-27

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 1: 39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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 **The Preface of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** 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

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.

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
17/08/26	Ezekiel 24:15-24	Deu 32:18-21	Matthew 19:16-22
18/08/26	Ezekiel 28:1-10	Deu 32:26-28,30,35-36	Matthew 19:23-30
19/08/26	Ezekiel 34:1-11	Ps 23:1-6	Matthew 20:1-16
20/08/26	Ezekiel 36:23-28	Ps 51:12-15,18-9	Matthew 22:1-14
21/08/26	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Ps 107:2-9	Matthew 22:34-40
22/08/26	Ezekiel 43:1-7a	Ps 85:9-14	Matthew 23:1-12

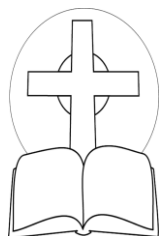
<u>CHURCH MINISTRIES</u>		
	15th & 16th August	22nd & 23rd August
READERS 6PM	G Selvaraj P Lobo	L Winter D Fufeyin
READERS 9AM	A Garber T Wickenden	M Francis F Garber
READERS 11AM	K Olii M Esong	M Olii M Adepoju
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	J Laurent	D Winter
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	K Wingfield T Wickenden	T Meaney M Abu
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	M Alademerin M McEveney	N Adewale M Ehiosun
CLEANING	Team 3-Anne-Marie Glancy	Team 4-Chris Meaney
LINEN	Ese Temeinor	Helen Coker

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. 16: The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Kamsi Chukwuma and Philip Nwaga, Wedding Blessing 9am Mass: Fr. Stanley Anaedo, RIP 11am Mass: Pro Populo <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i>	Sat: Aug. 22: Vigil of the Twenty-First Sunday (A) 5.15-5.45pm: Confessions 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Robert Lyddon, RIP (1st Death Anniversary)
Mon: Aug. 17: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Damian Okpala, RIP Tues: Aug. 18: No Mass Wed: Aug. 19: Feria 6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: Margaret Nuttman and Irene Williams, WB Thu: Aug. 20: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Fri: Aug. 21: St. Pius X, Pope (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9am: Divine Mercy Novena 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls	Sun: Aug. 23: Twenty-First Sunday (A) 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Fredrick Okafor, RIP 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>