



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

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

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY (A)

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19).

The First reading of today presents us with the sacking of Shebna, the master of the palace, and the appointment of Eliakim in his stead. Eliakim was to be vested with Shebna's authority, and given the keys to the house of David; this represents the leadership role which he now assumes. Similarly, in the Gospel reading, Peter received the power of the Keys and was placed at the helm of the Church's affairs. In answer to Christ's question: "Who do people say I am", Peter retorted: "You are Christ, the Son of the living God". After this profession of faith, Christ demonstrates His power as the Head and owner of the Church by giving Peter the Power of the Keys - power to bind and loose.

Hence neither Peter nor the disciples own the Church. Priests, Pastors and Church leaders are like hirelings who manage the Church in lieu of Christ. Since Christ is the sole Head and owner of the Church, the gates of hell will never overpower it as He promised us today. All the recent attempts to silence the religious conscience and relegate the Church's teachings to the background will never succeed, because Christ will always be with His Church till the end of time.

Finally, who is Christ to you? Like Peter, may we believe in Christ as our Lord and Saviour. May Christ be our friend and the love of our lives, and may we always seek His companionship all the days of our lives.

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 22: 15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 138: 1-2a, 2bc, 3, 6, 8bc

Response: *O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple. **R**

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R**

The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands. **R**

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans
11: 33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 16: 13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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 I of Sundays in Ordinary Time** and say **Eucharistic Prayer III**

The Mystery of Faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection 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

CAFOD Appeal – Cancel the Debt: At the end of each Mass this weekend our CAFOD representatives will be making an appeal regarding the debt crisis affecting many of the world's poorest countries. Money is flowing out of countries that can least afford it to pay huge debts to wealthy banks and hedge funds. 34 African countries allocate more money to servicing debts than to health or education. Countries have often paid back the debt several times over but will never clear it because of extortionate interest rates. Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla from South Sudan says, "Years of instability forced our nation to borrow in order to function. Today, so much of our national resources are diverted to servicing that debt, instead of paying for healthcare, education and building peace. When debt

repayments take priority over essential services, the poorest suffer most.” Please sign the petition at the back of the church calling for the UK government to take urgent action on this crisis, as they are well placed to do. Read more at [cafod.org.uk/cancel the debt](http://cafod.org.uk/cancel-the-debt).

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.

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.

Coffee Morning: The final coffee morning of the summer will take place on Friday the 28th of August after the 9.30am Mass.

Church freezers: A quantity of food has been left in the freezers in the meeting room. If this is your food, can you please arrange to collect it before the 6th of September. After this date, the food will be disposed of.

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors Formation Day: All Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors are asked to save the date of the forthcoming Formation Day. This will be held on Saturday the 31st of October at the Capuchin Franciscan Friary, Carlton Road, Erith, DA8 1DN. The theme will be “Nourished by the Word, Sent with the Eucharist”. Further details to follow.

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.

The Archbishop’s Certificate 2026/2028: The start of the 2026/2028 Archbishop’s Certificate will be the 10th of October 2026. The Archbishop’s Certificate supports not just the work of catechesis but also that of evangelisation and formation in our diocese. The certificate is in accord with Archbishop John Wilson’s vision for a missionary diocese and is open to all who work towards this. If you would like to know more you can join the ‘Come and See’ evening on Monday the 14th September at 7pm. A link to register can be found at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>

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. If you would like to join our parish database, forms are available in the porch and can be returned to the Parish Office.

DONATIONS

If you would like to donate to the parish, please scan 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
24/08/26	Revelation 21:96-14	Ps 145:10-13,17-18	John 1:45-51
25/08/26	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-17	Ps 96:10-13	Matthew 23:23-26
26/08/26	2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18	Ps 128:1-2,4-5	Matthew 23:27-32
27/08/26	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Ps 145:2-7	Matthew 24:42-51
28/08/26	1 Corinthians 1:17-25	Ps 33:1-2,4-5,10-11	Matthew 25:1-3
29/08/26	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Ps 33:12-13,18-19,20-21	Mark 6:17-29

CHURCH MINISTRIES

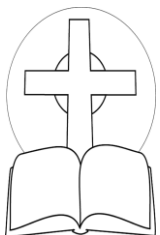
	22nd & 23rd August	29th & 30th August
READERS 6PM	L Winter D Fufeyin	G Winter Chima
READERS 9AM	M Francis F Garber	R Fernandes C Meaney
READERS 11AM	M Olii M Adepoju	P Chitongo W Chung
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	D Winter	J Smith
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	T Meaney M Abu	I Floyd K Wingfield
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	N Adewale M Ehiosun	F Adewale N Esong
CLEANING	Team 4-Chris Meaney	Team 1-Funmi Adewale
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, Douglas Hine, 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. 23: Twenty-First Sunday (A) 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Robert Lyddon, RIP (1st Death Anniversary) 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Fredrick Okafor, RIP <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i>	Sat: Aug. 29: Vigil of the Twenty-Second Sunday (A) 5.15-5.45pm: Confessions 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Holy Souls
Mon: Aug. 24: St. Bartholomew, Apostle (Feast) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Mary Dunleavy, RIP Tues: Aug. 25: No Mass Wed: Aug. 26: Feria 6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: Stella Hawker & Jennifer Smith, WB Thu: Aug. 27: St. Monica (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Teresa Heckstall Smith, RIP Fri: Aug. 28: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Memorial) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9am: Divine Mercy Novena 9.30am Mass: Kenneth Highland, RIP (1st Death Anniversary)	Sun: Aug. 30: Twenty-Second Sunday (A) 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Eunice Ifenatuorah, RIP and Linda Samaroo, BT 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>