



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 30TH AUGUST 2026
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY (A)

'But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.' (Matthew 16:23)

The First reading chronicles the ordeals of Prophet Jeremiah's mission; yet he was unwavering in preaching the Good News. In the Gospel reading, Christ gives us a blueprint of what the Christian life entails. In no unclear terms, he outrightly states: "If you want to follow me, you must renounce yourself and carry your cross daily and follow me daily" (Matt.16:24; Luke 9:23). Consequently, Christ reprimanded Peter, when he opted for a version of Christianity devoid of the Cross - suffering.

St Rose of Lima had a radical view of suffering: "Suffering is the only ladder by which paradise is reached, without the cross, there is no road to heaven. Instead of good fortune, all men everywhere would seek out troubles, illness and suffering that they might obtain the inestimable treasure of grace, for there is no grace without suffering". St. Paul had a similar opinion when he stated that "Now I rejoice in my suffering for your sake and in my flesh, I complete what is lacking in Christ's affliction for the sake of His body - The Church" (Colossians 1:24). Pope John Paul II gave us the right attitude to suffering. We must not submit passively to oppression, discrimination and abuses, but we must accept them with faith and perseverance. We shall be comforted that in the knowledge that our personal sufferings can be given infinite meaning and purpose because we can make them part of Christ's redemptive sacrifice. May we ask God for the grace to carry the crosses in our lives, and may we be confident that when sin [suffering] increases, the grace of God is superabundant (Romans 5:20).

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 Jeremiah 20: 7-9

O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 63: 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Response: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you; for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining, like a dry, weary land without water. **R**

I have come before you in the sanctuary, to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life; my lips will speak your praise. **R**

I will bless you all my life; in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **R**

For you have been my strength; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me. **R**

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

12: 1-2

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 16: 21-27

At that time: Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'

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 II of Sundays in Ordinary Time** and say **Eucharistic Prayer II**

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

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: This weekend we are celebrating all our parishioners who were born in the month of August with a special blessing at the end of every Mass. Please join us in the hall after Mass for birthday cake and refreshments.

RCIA: If you are an adult and have not yet received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation, you may wish to consider joining our next Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults course which starts in mid-October. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

SVP Summer Raffle: Tickets for the SVP Summer Raffle will be available for sale after Masses both this weekend and next. This is national raffle with a top prize of £5,000, a second prize of £1,000 and 15 additional prizes of £100 each.

CAFOD Global Debt Appeal: Thank you for your great response to the petition last weekend when we collected 254 signatures, probably over 90% of the adults present. Our petition will add to the global campaign from church leaders, bishops, economists and others, increasing the pressure on those in power to act. CAFOD will continue to campaign on the debt crisis in 2027 and push for urgent action. We will keep you informed of developments.

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.

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.

Message Book: If you have yet to leave a message for Fr. Cyriacus in the memory book, this weekend will be your last opportunity to do so. The book will be in the porch until Monday.

Service For Those Harmed By Abuse: The Archdiocese of Southwark will be holding their annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse at St. George's Cathedral on Wednesday the 30th of September, starting at 6.30pm. The service will be lead by Archbishop John Wilson and is an opportunity for the archdiocesan community to express their solidarity and compassion to those that have been hurt by abuse and to demonstrate our commitment to building safe environments for all. Please attend if you are able.

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.

FINANCE

If you would like to donate to the parish, please scan the QR code below or contact the parish office for our bank details.



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.

Readings For The Week Ahead:

	1st Reading	Psalm	Gospel
31/08/26	1 Corinthians 2:1-5	Ps 119:97-102	Luke 4:16-30
01/09/26	1 Corinthians 2:10-16	Ps 145:8-14	Luke 4:31-37
02/09/26	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Ps 33: 12-15,20-21	Luke 4:38-44
03/09/26	2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7	Ps 96:1-3,7-8,10	Luke 22:24-30
04/09/26	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Ps 37:3-6,27-28,39-40	Luke 5:33-39
05/09/26	1 Corinthians 4:6b-15	Ps 145:17-21	Luke 6:1-5

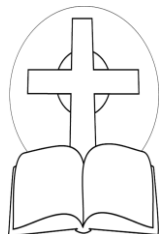
<u>CHURCH MINISTRIES</u>		
	29th & 30th August	5th & 6th September
READERS 6PM	G Winter Chima	V Martis A Dsouza
READERS 9AM	R Fernandes C Meaney	J Garber M Quintavalle
READERS 11AM	P Chitongo W Chung	M Higgins P O'Halloran
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 6PM	J Smith	E North
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 9AM	I Floyd K Wingfield	T Wickenden T Meaney
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS 11AM	F Adewale N Esong	E Williams M Alademerin
CLEANING	Team 1-Funmi Adewale	Team 1- Funmi Adewale
LINEN	Titi Obende	Funmi 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, Valerie Robbins, 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. 30: Twenty-Second Sunday (A) 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Holy Souls 9am Mass: Pro Populo 11am Mass: Eunice Ifenatuorah, RIP and Linda Samaroo, BT <i>(11am Mass Livestreamed on YouTube)</i>	Sat: Sep. 5: Vigil of the Twenty-Third Sunday (A) 5.15-5.45pm: Confessions 6pm Mass (Sat. Vigil): Holy Souls
Mon: Aug. 31: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Brenda Cronin & Family, WB Tues: Sep. 1: No Mass Wed: Sep. 2: Feria 6.45pm: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: Holy Souls Thu: Sep. 3: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church (Feast) 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls Fri: Sep. 4: Feria 8.45am: Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament 9am: Divine Mercy Novena 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls	Sun: Sep. 6: Twenty-Third Sunday (A) 9am Mass: Lucia Winter, 16th BT 11am Mass: Bridie & Donal Crowley, 60th WA 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>