

OUR LADY OF THE CRAYS RC CHURCH, CRAY VALLEY



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Clergy: Fr. Cyriacus Okafor
Parish Secretary: Alison Hannah

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: Mrs J Seymour

Our Lady's Pre-School - www.ourladypreschool.net
Manager: Anne-Marie Glancy Tel: 01689 872495/ Mob: 07983 808509

To hire the Parish Hall for any event please contact: 01372 457651
SVP Emergency No: 07598 347602/Email: SecretaryA190213@svp.org.uk

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER -THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
VIGIL MASS, MIDNIGHT MASS
TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

Today, a saviour has been born to us; He is Christ the Lord (Luke 2: 11)

The yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas is a special celebration for all Christians. It is a unique demonstration of the special love God has for us, as He allowed His only Son to take flesh for the salvation of the human race. Today, we celebrate this happy event, the wonderful feast of the Incarnation; the fact that our loving God reached out in love and became one like us in all things except sin. He took our lowly human nature in order to bring joy and salvation to the world.



Christ is born: give Him glory! Christ has come down from heaven: receive Him! Christ is now on earth: exalt Him! O you earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise Him in joy, for He has been glorified! Our time of waiting is over. Jesus has been born in the stable at Bethlehem. Each day He will be born anew if we rise up to the challenge of proclaiming the angels' message of peace on earth and glory to God in the highest.

May we transform the Christmas "joy to the world" into a personal "joy in my life, in my families and friends" both now and always. Amen!

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.

THE GLORIA

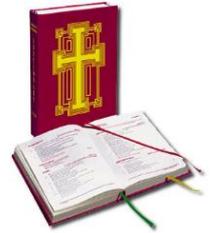
**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
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 FOR 6PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL

First reading: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

About Zion, I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.



The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 88:4-5. 16-17.27.29
Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord

I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all the ages. **R.**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R.**

He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

Second Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17.22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in a synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power He led them out. Then He made David their king, of whom He approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep His promise, God has raised up for Israel, one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow, there will be an end to the sin of the world,
and the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR MIDNIGHT MASS

First Reading: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and



dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give Him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is His dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which He establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95:1-3. 11-13

Response: Today a saviour has been born to us; He is Christ the Lord

O sing a new song to the Lord, Sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless His name. **R**

Proclaim His help day by day, tell among the nations His glory and His wonders among all the peoples. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for He comes, He comes to rule the earth. **R**

With justice He will rule the world, He will judge the peoples with His truth. **R**

Second Reading: A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed Himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

today, a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a

manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by, there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today, in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel, there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord



LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

First Reading: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is King!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as He returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.



The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97:1-6

Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **R**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **R**

Second Reading: A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews 1:1-6

At the various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, He has spoken to us through His Son, the Son that He has appointed to inherit everything and through whom He made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that He has destroyed the defilement of sin, He has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine majesty. So He is now as far above the angels, as the title which He has

inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he, a son to me. Again, when He brings the First-born into the world, He says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

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 of 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 the Nativity of the Lord** and say **Eucharistic Prayer III.**

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

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

Fr. Cyriacus' Christmas Break: Please note that Fr. Cyriacus will be away from the Parish from 2nd-11th January. Fr. Anthony will be officiating in his absence, please make him welcome.

Christmas Offering Envelope: If you have a Gift Aid number, please use the Christmas offering envelope with your number on it. If you do not have a gift aid number, and at the same time you are a taxpayer, please write down your name and address so that the parish can claim 25% back as gift aid tax return on your donation. **Please note that Christmas offering is your personal Christmas gift to Fr. Cyriacus and not to the Parish.**



New Year Schedule

<p>Monday 31st December New Year's Eve Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 11.00pm: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12.00am: Midnight Mass</p>	<p>Tuesday 1st January New Year's Day 9.30am: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</p>
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Fr. Cyriacus wishes you all a very Merry Christmas & Glorious New Year!



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

**PEACE
JOY
LOVE
HOPE**