



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From the very beginning of His public ministry, Our Lord gathered communities around Him. He said that whenever even two or three met in His name He would be with them. The same is true today when we come together as the Parish community here.

The Church has always been this living community that preaches the Gospel and celebrates the sacraments to make visible Christ presence in our world. It also must sustain itself to achieve these ends. Each Parish is responsible for funding its own activities and property, independent of the Diocese and other agencies for financial support. We must balance our books so as to ensure our long-term future and facilitate continuing the mission given by Jesus Christ to the first apostles. I'm very grateful for the support that so many people give to our Parish, and their continued participation in the life our community.

In the light of the many pastoral activities taking place here in the parish as well as the challenges presented to us by the upkeep of our church building, may I invite you please in the weeks ahead to reflect on your regular offertory contribution. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

Fr David Gummett

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

Parish Priest: Fr David Gummett
Address: 111 Old Road, Crayford, Kent DA1 4DN
Tel: 01322 523492
Email: crayford@rcaos.org.uk
Website: stmarycrays.org.uk

WEEK 1

ST MARY OF THE CRAYS

CRAYFORD



OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

“...like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others”

- 1 Peter 4:10

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Registered Charity Number 1173050



“...since everything has come from you and we have given you only what you bestowed in the first place”

I Chronicles 29: 14

All we have comes from God, so we are His Stewards

Whether it is the gift of our faith, our friends and family, our skills, possessions, or the gift of life itself!

So how do I respond? Do I give thanks to God and honour Him through how I use these gifts? Regularly reflecting on my blessings and renewing my commitment to the Faith through my giving is therefore an important part of my

Whenever we give, we grow each time we:

- ✓ Joyfully recall that all we have comes from God;
- ✓ Declare our trust in His provision and care;
- ✓ Take one step forward in our personal faith journey;
- ✓ Share in the joy of giving and seeing the amazing fruits it brings.

Time, Treasure, Talents

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of time, treasure and talents that God wants us to use and share with others for His glory. Our Parish would not function without the generosity of our parishioners giving their time and talents and sharing their financial blessings.



“Each one should give as much as he has decided on his own initiative, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

What does my Parish mean to me?

Alongside volunteering, our Parish relies on offertory collections to maintain and grow our mission. We do not receive funding from the government, the Vatican or Diocese.

As Stewards of this Parish, we are each responsible for the upkeep of our Parish, with a duty to pass it on to future generations in even better condition than when we received it.

What you decide to give is personal to you. Traditionally, communities of the faithful tithed, giving 10% of their income. Some like to break this down into ‘5 and 5’:

- 5 hours of service to Parish ministry (sharing your time and talent)
- 5% of their income.

Whatever you decide, the amount should suit your circumstances and be meaningful to you. The table below can help you to work out percentages if you wish.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME		WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE		
Hourly Wage	Annual Salary	2%	3%	5%
£11.95	£22,000	£8.37	£12.55	£20.91
£15	£27,000	£11	£16	£26
£20	£36,000	£14	£21	£35
£25	£46,000	£18	£26	£44
£30	£55,000	£21	£32	£53
£38	£70,000	£27	£40	£67



The late Cardinal Basil Hume suggested we consider offering our first hour's pay to God each week.