

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) (GAUDETE SUNDAY) Is. 35: 1-6, 10; Ps. 145; Jas. 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11	
Saturday 13th December 2025 5:00 - 6:00pm: CONFESSIONS 6:00 - 6:20pm HOLY ROSARY 6:30pm: Lucia Lincoln RIP FM	Sunday 14th December 2025 8:30am: People of the Parish 10:30am: Bill Redmond RIP FM 3:30pm: PARISH CAROL SERVICE
Mon. 15th Dec. 2025 (Feria) 8:00: Holy Rosary and Adoration 9:15am: Holy Souls	Tues. 16th Dec. 2025 (Feria) 8:00: Holy Rosary and Adoration 9:15am: Private Intention DG n/s 11am: Holy Mass at Shalom Javier Munez RIP (LSU) 1:30pm: SJS Junior Carol Service
Weds. 17th Dec. 2025 (Feria) 8:00: Holy Rosary and Adoration 9:15am: Clare Gummatt RIP	Thurs. 18th Dec. 2025 (Feria) 8:15 Holy Rosary 9:15am: Monica Murrell RIP (Russell)
Fri. 19th Dec. 2025 (Feria) 8:15: Holy Rosary 9:15am: Thank you for Nathan's Mass (Asta)	Saturday 20th December 2025 11am: Holy Mass at Shalom
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Is. 7: 10-14; Ps. 23; Rom. 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25	
Saturday 20th December 2025 5:00 - 6:00pm: CONFESSIONS 6:00 - 6:20pm HOLY ROSARY 6:30pm: Deceased relatives and friends of Valerie Hull	Sunday 21st December 2025 8:30am: People of the Parish 10:30am: David Hull RIP FM

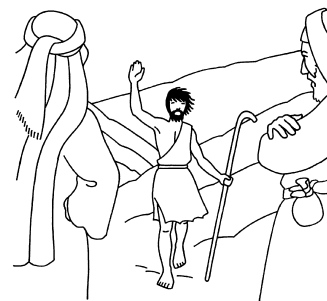
ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH
Patricia Leary, Anne Pilkington, Leslie Hall, Henry Davis, Joseph Byrne, Vera Loom, Tina Holmes, Annie O'Neil, René Holloway, Sr. Weseloh, Sr. Mary O'Riordan, Pauline Cope, Winifred Ward, Angel and Jerry McCarthy, Mgr. Joseph Harris, Percy Holmes, Sydney Davies, Esther Bracken, Patrick Davis, Jack Pearce, Cecilia Trevethan, Maria Coelho, Sr. Ada Hudson, Michael Twomey, Kenneth Smith, Neville Pryke, May Callan, F. Bonyngo, Peter Cascarini, Derick Hudson.

REJOICE, THE LORD IS COMING SOON!
God sends His own Son to save us. Joy and gladness are ours and the time for sorrow and lamenting is over. Christ is standing at the gates and we know He is the one for whom we have been waiting. Do not lose heart. Take courage! Your God is coming!

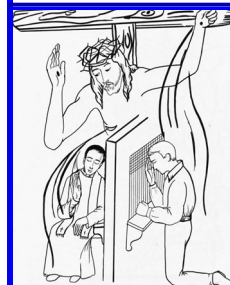


ST MARY OF THE CRAYS
CATHOLIC CHURCH
 114 Old Road, Crayford DA1 4DZ
www.stmarycrays.org.uk
"Welcome Worship Witness"
(part of the Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Southwark)
www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

"Behold,
 I send my messenger before
 your face, who will prepare
 your way before you."



Truly, I say to you, among
 those born of women there
 has arisen no one greater
 than John the Baptist.
 Yet the one who is least in
 the kingdom of heaven
 is greater than he.



SACRAMENT OF
PENANCE -
CONFESSION -
SATURDAYS
5PM TO 6PM
 also, WHENEVER
THE CHURCH
IS OPEN, and
ON REQUEST

Postal Address:
 111 Old Road, Crayford DA1 4DN
Parish Website:
www.stmarycrays.org.uk
Parish Email Address:
crayford@rcaos.org.uk
Facebook:
 Stmary Crays
Telephone:
 01322 523 492
Parish Mobile 'Phone:
 07485 151 159
Parish Priest
 Fr. David Gummatt
davidgummatt@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Secretary
 Vanessa Barker
 Monday to Friday: 8am-11am
Parish Office: 01322 551 257

Parish School
Executive Head Teacher:
 Mr. M. Hannon
Head of School:
 Mrs. A. Truss
St. Joseph's Primary School
 Old Road, Crayford DA1 4DZ
 01322 524 162
www.st-josephs.bexley.sch.uk
Parish Hall
 For enquiries and bookings contact
 01372 457 651

SUNDAY OFFERINGS 6TH/7TH DECEMBER 2025:
Gift Aid: £371.70; Card: £159; Loose Plate: £203.76 ATTENDANCE: 235
Thank you for your continuing generosity in these difficult times, *Fr. David.*

SECOND COLLECTIONS:
This weekend: for the **Building Fund**
Gift-Aiders: Please use one of the envelopes from the back of your box/bundle.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
Anxious to find out if Christ was the promised one for whom he had prepared the people by his preaching, John sent his messengers to Jesus with the urgent question: "Are you the one that is to come or are we to await someone else?" The reply given by Jesus indicated that His ministry was one of healing and life-giving. The deaf were hearing; the blind were seeing. People were beginning to experience a new life and the poor were receiving the good news that God was on their side. John would not be slow to draw the conclusion from such an answer that Christ was indeed the long awaited Messiah. He could die with the assurance that his own life had been meaningful and worthwhile.

GAUDETE SUNDAY
The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice." and reminds us that while we are waiting, we can be joyful. Advent is a time of hope and preparation and this week, we can pause to smile, sing, and take heart because Jesus is near. His coming brings healing, justice, and peace.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS
Our Christmas Crib Offerings will be collected and shared between: -
♦ **THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY'S SOUTHWARK CRISIS FUND** which provides immediate support to those children and families in the Diocese who are most in need.
♦ **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND** for the poorest Christian families in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.
Gift Aiders can use one of the spare envelopes, but please add your Gift Aid number.

CHRISTMAS HOLY MASSES	
Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December	5pm Christmas Vigil Mass Midnight Mass
Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December	8:30am and 10:30am
St. Stephen's Day: Friday 26th December	9:15am

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS
The collections on the **24TH** and **25TH DECEMBER** for Christmas offerings are by custom given for the support of Priests in parish ministries. Together with the Easter offering, it forms the main source of income of parish clergy within the Archdiocese who do not receive a wage throughout the year.

Of your Charity, please pray for the repose of the Soul of
RITA MARY PEARCE, who died on the 30th November 2025 aged 93 years.
FUNERAL: Friday 9th January 2026 at 1pm
COMMITTAL: Eltham Crematorium at 3.30pm

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HER, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HER. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE. MAY HER SOUL, AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

ST. MARY OF THE CRAY'S COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB
CONGRATULATIONS to **JIM SAUNDERS** who won the **£185** Snowball house prize last Sunday at Bingo. During 2025 the bingo raised just over **£650** towards the club donations to the parish. It all starts again on **4TH JANUARY 2026**. Come along and see what all the fun is about.
The club is open 7.30pm to 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights and 12noon to 4pm on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you and your family there.



Foodbank Donations

Huge **THANK YOU** for your donations of produce and money throughout 2025. Latest figures available show that Foodbank has served 9,943 people last year. Produce donations have reduce a lot and they need to buy in a lot of Food, Toiletries and house cleaning items. So however you donate, it is always greatly appreciated. Thank you and may God Bless you all for your generosity. Alex Rees

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN CHURCH
We are planning to prepare the Church for Christmas on **TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER** at **10AM**, and would appreciate help from anyone who can join us. The preparation will include Church Cleaning, Christmas Decorations and Flowers, any suitable greenery would be appreciated. Also, as last year, we invite parishioners to donate poinsettias to decorate our Crib and Sanctuary. Cards will be available by the Crib to leave a message of dedication with your poinsettias. For any further information, please contact Josie, Bernice or Bernadette.
Our **PARISH REMEMBRANCE CHRISTMAS TREE** is available from this weekend. This is our own personal reminder of our loved ones who are no longer with us and who we would love to spend time with this Christmas, and so, we commend them to the Lord. Please complete a star with the name of your family member or friend and hang it on the tree.

Please pray for the members of our Parish Family who are sick:

Anita Claridge, Anna Idahosa, Barry Alfred Colville, Bernard Glazier, Bernie Francis, Bridget Whitaker, Carmella "Nina" Stafford, Catherine Edmeades, Chandra Rawal, Chloe Mutimer, Christina Redmond, Clare Cooney, Erin, Fr. Morty O'Shea, Felicity Dyer, Jackie Dawson, Joan Veronica McCormack, Linda Rawlinson, Liz Algar, Luc Fitzpatrick, Margaret Harrington, Marie Rogerston, Pat Goodwin, Pat McGrory, Patrick Taylor, Pauline White, Richard Hilsden and Sean Tansey.
PLEASE, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY ONE ELSE WHO, WITH THEIR PERMISSION, OUGHT TO BE ON THIS LIST?