

## Catholic Church of St Anne Line

## Newsletter

**Parish Priest:** Fr Bartolomeu Blaj

**Deacon:** Rev Alan Mair

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**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

A registered charity

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – Year

The

Please use the QR code for your weekly offertory. It is a safe and easy method to donate. Do Gift Aid if you are a Tax payer.

**B**

word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word parousia. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. The first mention of Advent occurred in the 300’s A.D at a meeting of church leaders called the Council of Sargossa. It gradually developed into a season that stretched across the month of December. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to

Christmas. The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for his final return.

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

The Catholic Advent Wreath traditionally symbolising everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

Four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolise the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Saviour—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolise the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning :

The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolises Hope with the "Prophet’s Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolises Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolises Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolises Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Many circular wreaths can incorporate a white candle by adding a pillar candle to the wreath center.

## *Fr Barto*

**Baptism of infants & RCIA** Please contact the Office or speak to Fr Barto and Rev Alan. For Baptism it is essential that you make contact with us as soon as possible to ensure that Diocesan requirements are fulfilled and a suitable date can be placed in the diary.

**Confession** is after weekday Mass (Wednesday to Saturday). Confessions can be heard in English, Italian, Spanish and Romanian.

**Marriages** We welcome the marriage of parishioners and those who regularly worship here. Please notify Fr Barto or Rev Alan **at least six months in advance** to allow adequate time for preparation.

Can we persuade you to **set up a standing order** if you don't have one? Bank details at the front of the newsletter. If you are a taxpayer, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form found in the porch and send it back to the church. You can donate **online** through the Diocesan donation page following this link: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=south-woodford>

**Weekday Morning Prayer** Psalter Week 1  
**Lectionary** Sunday Year B: Advent week 1

### **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2023**

5.30pm Carols  
6.00pm Holy Mass

Thank you to everyone who supported the bazaar. A big thank you to Tina for her hard work in organising this successful event. £1,673 was raised for the Church & Hall Maintenance fund.

### **Nativity of the Lord**

8.00pm Holy Mass in Romanian  
10.00pm Carols  
10.30pm Midnight Holy Mass

### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION- SOLEMNITY**

On Friday 8th December. Masses are at 9.30am and 7pm.

### **Monday 25th December - Christmas Day**

9.30am Holy Mass  
11.00am Holy Mass  
12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

### **MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS**

#### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

6.30pm Holy Mass

### **CCP and APPLICATIONS PROCESS – NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL ONLY**

#### **Sunday Vigil Mass**

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve**

9.30am Holy Mass

In September 2020 the Episcopal Vicar for Education reminded all priests that a Certificate for Catholic Practice can only be issued for a family when the priest has evidence that they attend Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation. Fortnightly or monthly attendance does not constitute the

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Holy Mass  
12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

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practice required by the Church's Code of Canon Law.

Please collect the Initial CCP Information form as you enter. Hand in or post the following to the presbytery in a sealed envelope to Fr Barto by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

- a) Completed initial CCP Information form to be collected this weekend from the porch
- b) A copy of your child's Baptism Certificate
- c) Completed CCP form (the information about your child), printed from

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Certificate-of-Catholic-Practice.pdf>

Make an appointment with the office by email to see Fr Barto on **Wednesday 13 December between 4pm and 5.30pm.**

### **RETIRING COLLECTION – THIS WEEKEND**

This Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we welcome Fr Bernard from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal who will be celebrating the 9.30am and 11am Masses. They will be kicking off our Advent Fundraising project which will be for the Friars and their good causes for the homeless. **The retiring collection this weekend will be for the Friars.**

The red fire extinguisher will be used for collections. Parishioners are encouraged to Gift Aid their donations to the Friars (Gift aid forms in the porch). Please support this worthy cause.

### **RETIRING COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

This will be for Church flowers at Christmas.

### **JOURNEY OF FAITH (RCIA)**

The course continues on **Monday 11 December** from 7:40pm finishing at 9pm in the hall.

### **PARISH SOCIAL EVENT DATES**

**AFTERNOON CLUB-** is meeting on Wednesday 6 December in the hall.

**MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES** – Saturday 9 December, 3.30pm -5.30pm. All invited!

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, TABLE TOP & BRING AND BUY CAKE SALE** on Sunday 10 December 10am – 2pm.

### **PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATES**

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION-** Next sessions will be held in January.

**LECTIO DIVINA** - Thursday 14 December after the morning Mass.

### **ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE**

St Thomas of Canterbury on 10 December at 4.30pm. Refreshments will be served after the service.

### **CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

We have a Care for Our Common Home Advent Calendar available on the website. Please make use of this for prayer during Advent. <https://saintanneline.com/advent-2023/>

### **COP 28**

We have a COP28 page on our website. It includes a prayer for COP 28. Please take a moment to have a look. <https://saintanneline.com/faith-in-action/laudato-si-on-care-for-our-common-home/cop28/>

### **DIVINE MERCY REFLECTION**

At the Church of Mary Mother of God 192 Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR on Saturday 16 December 2023 from 1:30-4.30pm led by the Marian Fathers. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

### **FIRST FRIDAY NOVENA**

Continues monthly on every first Friday of the month until the feast of the Sacred Heart in June 2024.

### **WEEKLY MASS ATTENDANCE FORMS**

Are available in the porch as you enter for the Sacraments, (FHC & Confirmation) and for nursery, primary & secondary Catholic Schools. **Attendance at weekly Sunday Mass and Holy days of obligation by your child is required** unless they are ill or isolating. Complete one per child and drop the completed form into the box provided **as you leave Church.**

## **BRENTWOOD DIRECTORY 2024**

On sale in the porch. Price £2.95. Please place money in the wall box marked 'CTS & publications'.

### **NEW PARISHIONERS**

Welcome!! Please introduce yourself to Fr Barto and Rev Alan. Also complete a registration and GDPR form found in the porch and return to the Parish Office once completed.

### **DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS**

(To be left on the table by the organ loft)

- Jumpers, tee-shirts, fleeces, underwear jackets - all sizes
- Joggers, jeans, socks all sizes
- Bleach, anti-bacterial hand wash
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shower gel, monthly pads, razors, deodorant, shampoo

- **NO FORMAL CLOTHES OR FORMAL SHOES AND NO CHILDREN'S CLOTHES NEEDED.**

### **SVP SUPPORT**

If you, or anyone you know in our community, could benefit from support from the SVP please contact the Parish Office (in strict confidence)

**Intention for the week:** "For all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby. Lord hear us".

**RIP:** Pat Burton, twin brother of John Burton who died in Ireland on Tuesday. Please pray for John, Mary and the family. May he rest in peace.

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**Anniversaries 4- 10 December.**

Kali Hejpetr, Hugh Gaughan, Agnes Garvey, Patrick K Duffy, Ann Quinn, Joan Boatman, Michael Neary, Albert Hodges, Ellen Martin, Frank & Mary Flynn, Cecilia Mann, Ted Mlynski, Margaret A Ward.

**Last weekend** Mass attendance was 259.

**Stay In Touch**

**Follow us on Facebook -**

**facebook.com/SaintAnneLine and also at facebook.com/SALSocialCommitee. Follow us On Twitter/X - @Stannelinesw**

### **Safeguarding Coordinator**

Mary Lamb 020 8491 0970

[mary-annelamb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mary-annelamb@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator**

Anthony Collins 020 8989 9547

[anthony.collins53@ntlworld.com](mailto:anthony.collins53@ntlworld.com)

### **Catholics Come Home**

<http://www.catholicscomehome.org/>

### **Young Catholics in London**

[@PureInHeartUK](https://www.instagram.com/PureInHeartUK)

### **Concerned Parents**

<https://parentpower.family/>

### **Life matters: for help & advice**

<http://goodcounselnet.co.uk/>

<http://lifecharity.org.uk/>

### **Helpers of God's Precious Infants**

<https://www.helpersuk.org/>

### **Courage: those with same-sex attraction**

<https://couragerc.org/about/>