

Parish Priest: Fr Bartolomeu Blaj

Deacon: Rev Alan Mair

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Sunday 31st December 2023

A registered charity

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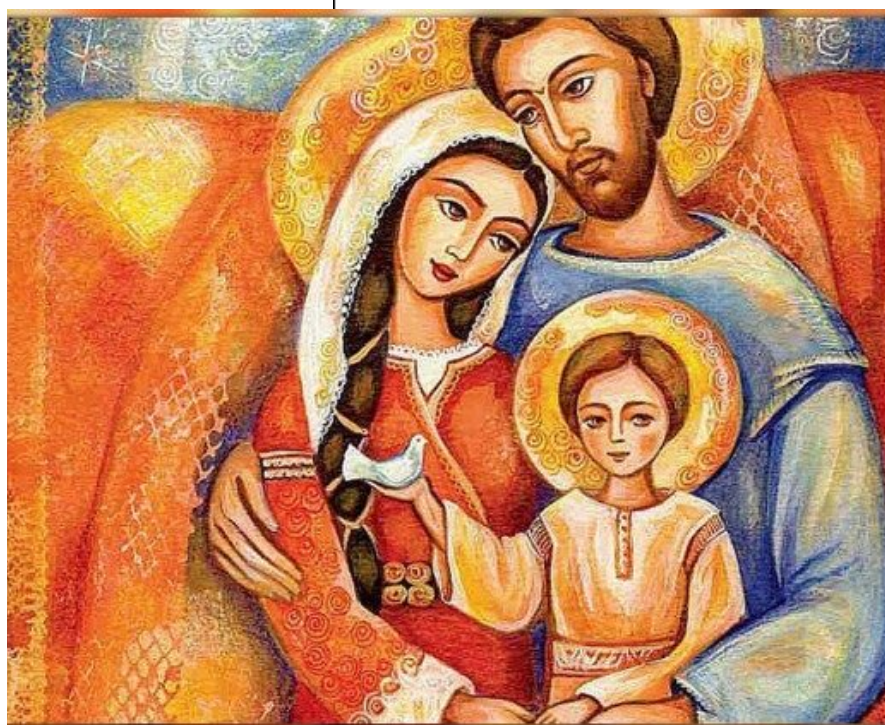
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Holy Family – Year B

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.



The first Sunday after Christmas introduces us to the intimacy of the Holy Family, where the Son of God grew up and evokes the domestic virtues that reigned in the home of Jesus: fidelity, work, honesty,

obedience, mutual respect and love between the parents and the Son... and asks that they continue to be valid in our families.

On this first Sunday after Christmas, while we are still immersed in the

joyful atmosphere of the Birth of Jesus, the Church invites us to contemplate the Holy Family of Nazareth. The Gospel today presents us with the Virgin and Saint Joseph at the moment in which, forty days after the birth of Jesus, they go to the temple in Jerusalem. They do it in religious obedience to the Law of Moses, which prescribes offering the firstborn to the Lord (cf. Luke 2:22-24).

The message that comes from the Holy Family is above all a message of faith. In the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the centre, and He is in the person of Jesus. This is why the family of Nazareth is holy. Because? Because it is centered on Jesus. When parents and children breathe together this climate of faith, they possess an energy that allows them to face even difficult trials, as the experience of the Holy Family shows, for example, in the dramatic event of the flight in Egypt: a severe trial.

The Child Jesus with his Mother Mary and with Saint Joseph are a simple but above all luminous family icon. The light that radiates is the light of mercy and salvation for the entire world, the light of truth for every man, for the human family and for each family. This light that comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth in those family situations in which, for various reasons, peace is lacking, harmony is lacking and forgiveness is lacking.

The Church is a great family, the great family of God. The Church is prophetic: she proclaims the Kingdom of God. Simeon, as well as the prophetess Anna, are there to witness to this. But do we really believe it? Do we believe that God himself can speak to us, and that he really does so? If yes, this is good: the Holy Spirit is with us! If not, let us look at Jesus the child, let us turn our eyes toward this young man who is God, but who underwent thirty years of submission to his parents, Joseph and Mary. So, if we humbly ask him for it, he will give us his grace, the grace of truly believing that he is the All-Powerful One, that he can do anything, that through his Spirit, he, the Word of God, can speak to us.

I wish to all the families in our parish to live always on the presence of Jesus, so that He sanctifies, protects and keeps them from all evil.

Thank you for spending another year together in this magnificent place called Saint Anne Line parish.

I wish you a life full of graces and blessings and a Happy New Year 2024!

Fr Barto, Rev Alan

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: Week 1 of Christmastide

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you for your gifts and cards this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you also for the Christmas collection. The first Christmas in a parish is going to be different for everyone, but thank you for making me welcome. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the church look festive and to Rev Alan Mair, the stewards, readers, the cleaners and many others who helped prepare us for the Feast.

CRIB OFFERINGS

There will be no retiring collections over Christmas – you are encouraged to make donations to Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) through Crib Offerings. Donations can be placed in the fire extinguisher next to the crib.

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

If you wish to come up for a blessing instead, please indicate this by crossing both arms across your chest.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENT DATES

AFTERNOON CLUB- is meeting on Wednesday 3 January in the hall.

PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATES

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION- This will resume in January 2024.

LECTIO DIVINA - Thursday 11th January after the morning Mass.

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'.

FIRST FRIDAY NOVENA – 5th JANUARY

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

SAHARA DESERT RETREAT IN MOROCCO

26 February – 11 March 2024. Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults,

open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). www.desert-retreat.com or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES 30

APRIL - 7 MAY 2024 AND 2-9 SEPTEMBER 2024

The total cost for either pilgrimage is £700 and a £30 discount will be given to those who book and pay a £100 deposit before the end of January 2024. The package includes flights, luggage, transfers, half board at the hotel, plus our own guide for the week. To book and for further information please phone Gail on 07989879148 or email gail.hewett@hotmail.com. Thank you.

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)

PARISH OFFICE (IN THE PRESBYTERY)

The Parish secretary is in the office on Monday afternoons, Wednesdays and Friday mornings.

Intention for the week: "Let us pray for all those worried about not having the resources to support their new baby, that they would have the faith of Mary and Joseph that God will provide and watch over them. Lord hear us".

Please pray for those who are sick:

Anniversaries 1st – 7th January. Tony Mara, Gertrude Henderson, Mr F Pride, Anna Thurlow, Mrs M Stewart, Eric Sledmere, Walter Palmer, Michael Conroy, Joanna Margaret O'Reilly, Tony Ogdin, Charles Murphy, Francis C Baker, Robert Wallace, Mrs Nott, Mrs Turpin, Kenneth Storan, William O'Driscoll, Charles Brightwell, Gregory Shiu-Chow Fung, Canon John Bloomfield & George Teager.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 227 on 4th Sunday of Advent and 503 at Christmas.

Stay In Touch

Follow us on Facebook - [facebook.com/SaintAnneLine](https://www.facebook.com/SaintAnneLine)
[facebook.com/SALSocialCommitee](https://www.facebook.com/SALSocialCommitee).
Follow us On Twitter/X - [@Stannelinesw](https://twitter.com/Stannelinesw)

Safeguarding Coordinator

Mary Lamb 020 8491 0970

mary-annelamb@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator

Anthony Collins 020 8989 9547
anthony.collins53@ntlworld.com

The Holy Father's prayer intentions:

For people with disabilities

Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

Reflection

Begin your day by remembering the year that has passed and give thanks for so many graces that have been given to you. "The child grew and became strong, full of wisdom, and the grace of God was with him" (Lk 2:40). Today, try to identify your fears and weaknesses and ask God to enlighten you and fill you with His grace, so that you can enter into the new year with enthusiasm. Offer your day for the Pope's intentions for this month. Our Father.

Parish Website: www.saintanneline.com

Check the website for various items including:

Mass Times

News/Blog

Parish Ministry Groups

Laudato Si

Laudate Deum

Partner Groups - including Aid to the Church in Need, Huruma Orphanage, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Woodford Fellowship of Churches.