

Catholic Church of St Anne Line

Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr Bartolomeu Blaj

Deacon: Rev Alan Mair

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Sunday 4th February 2024

A registered charity

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www.saintanneline.com

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 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.

Saint Anne Line:

Defiant in the Face of Death

Converting in dangerous times

Saint Anne Line is believed to have been born as Alice Higham and was the oldest daughter of a Puritan landowner. During her early 20s she, her brother and her husband all converted to Catholicism. For making such a choice, she lost her dowry and her brother and husband were

disinherited. It was during this time that she started going by the name of Anne instead of Alice.

Things took a turn for the worse when, on 2 February 1601, both her brother and husband were imprisoned for attending Mass. Her brother, William Higham, was eventually released but kept under watch while her husband, Robert Line, was banished to Flanders. He would remain there until his death, but during this time he continued to send money to his wife back home to ensure her well-being.

Sheltering priests

After Robert's death, Anne became very active in sheltering clandestine Catholic priests, which was illegal in the reign of Elizabeth I. She began by running a house set up by a priest who was eventually captured and sent to the Tower of London. Here she sheltered many priests and cleverly hid them from the authorities.

After the priest she was filling in for escaped the Tower of London, she gave up managing the house. By then she was known to so many people that it was unsafe for the said priest to frequent any house she occupied. Instead, St Anne hired apartments in another building and continued to shelter priests there.

Caught and imprisoned

Saint Anne Line was finally caught when, one day, too many Catholics turned up for Mass and the locals got suspicious. The guards were called but thanks to St Anne's forethought most people, and even the priest, Fr Francis Page, were able to escape.

Saint Anne Line is an English saint who challenges us to never be ashamed of our Catholic faith and always stand up for it, despite what others may think.

Sadly, both she and another woman, Margaret Gage, were caught. Margaret was released on bail but St Anne was sent to Newgate Prison. Eventually she was brought to trial where even though she was weakened by time in jail and fever, she remained defiant. She told the court that so far from regretting having concealed a priest, she only grieved that she “could not receive a thousand more.” Sir John Popham, the judge, sentenced her to death for the felony of assisting a seminary priest.

Defiant in the face of death

St Anne was hanged on 27 February 1601. She was executed immediately before two priests, Fr Roger Filcock and Fr Mark Barkworth, who received the more severe sentence of hanging, drawing and quartering. At the scaffold she repeated what she had said at her trial, declaring loudly to the bystanders: “I am sentenced to die for harbouring a Catholic priest, and so far I am from repenting for having so done, that I wish, with all my soul, that where I have entertained one, I could have entertained a thousand.”

Why Saint Anne Line is important to me

A reflection from someone in our young Catholic community

There is something particularly inspiring about the lives of saints from this country, particularly of those who chose to give up their life for what they believed. Anne was born and lived in Essex and London. She was courageous and helped in any way she knew how. Her life is, and will always be, a challenge to me to never be ashamed of my faith and always stand up for it, despite what others may think.

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 morning Mass (Wednesday to Saturday) and on Saturday evening before the 6.30pm Vigil Mass. 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 5 in Ordinary Time

LECTIO DIVINA LEAFLETS

More information about Lectio Divina will be distributed this weekend.

Wednesday. Please place them in the basket at the back of the Church.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This meeting has been rescheduled to **Monday 12 February** at 7.45pm in the hall.

Confirmation - Volunteering at Redbridge Foodbank on Saturday 10th February. Meet at 9.50am at Jubilee Church, 14 Granville Road, Ilford, IG1 4JY. Session will be finished by 1pm.

PALM CROSSES

Please bring in the palm crosses from last year **by Sunday 11 February** so we may burn them and use them on Ash

First Holy Communion - Next session on Sunday 11 February at 3pm in the hall.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENT DATES

AFTERNOON CLUB- is meeting on Wednesday 31 January in the hall.

COFFEE MORNING – Sunday 11 February after the 9.30am and 11am Masses.

QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 15 March. SAVE THE DATE!

RETIRING COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Is for the Lourdes Sick & Helpers Fund to defray expenses for sick pilgrims who otherwise would not be able to make the pilgrimage.

PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATE

LECTIO DIVINA – on Thursday 8 February after the morning Mass. During Lent, we will have Lectio Divina **every Friday** starting on **16 February** after morning Mass.

ACUPUNCTURE

Veronica will be in the hall this Sunday after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. Minimum donation is £10 which will be for the Church. If you are interested in finding out more, please do come along and Veronica will be happy to speak to you.

ENQUIRERS EVENING

The next “Enquirers’ Evening” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 6 February at Brentwood Cathedral .The speaker will be Deacon Matúš Meleg who is training for the priesthood for our Diocese. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP MASS

On Sunday 11 February in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead at 3pm followed by refreshments.

EVANGELISING POST-CHRISTIAN BRITAIN

Lecture at 7pm on Tuesday 20 February 2024 at St James' Church, Spanish Place by Monsignor James Shea, co-author of From Christendom to Apostolic Mission, in which he will draw bridges between the different visions that the Church and the world have for our society and suggest effective strategies to

engage our own time and culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lecture will be followed by a Q & A and then refreshments will be available.

FLAME 2025

Saturday 15th March 2025 11am – 6pm, at Wembley Arena. The theme for the Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope” the Flame theme is “Unstoppable” – Fan the Flame of Hope. The BCYS will purchase a block of early bird tickets the group from the Diocese can sit together. These early bird tickets are £29 each, a saving of £5 per ticket. To request tickets with BCYS, visit www.bcys.net/flame2025 or e-mail gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme is on 12-14 April in Brentwood; for further details please contact: Mary: 0208 647 4760, or Maura: 07795498445, email

besouthofengland@gmail.com

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**.

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.

BRENTWOOD DIRECTORY 2024

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

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
- Toiletries (shower gel, deodorant, razor)
- Bleach, anti-bacterial hand wash, laundry detergent (liquid)

• NO FORMAL CLOTHES OR FORMAL SHOES AND NO CHILDREN'S CLOTHES NEEDED.

ST. JOHN'S RC SPECIAL SCHOOL WOODFORD BRIDGE

is recruiting for an SEN Class Teacher (MPS) and Classroom Support Assistants. These are full-time, term time only roles in a school with students aged 5 - 25 with a wide range of special needs. Previous experience essential. For application packs phone 02085041818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk stating the role you are interested in. Successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk

Mass Times 3rd – 11th February

No Exposition of the Blessed Holy Eucharist this week. Rosary will be prayed after morning Mass.

- Saturday 3rd** 9.30am
6.30pm Vigil Mass
- Sunday 4th** 9.30am
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Mass in Romanian

Monday 5th Private Mass

Tuesday 6th Private Mass

Wednesday 7th 9.30am

Thursday 8th 9.30am

Friday 9th 9.30am

Saturday 10th 9.30am
6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 11th 9.30am
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Mass in Romanian

Intention for the week "We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in their situations, and experience the many blessings that motherhood brings. Lord hear us".

Please pray for those who are sick.

Anniversaries 5th February – 11th February

Anne Brinklow, Christopher Winberg, Mr Boyle, Ann Halsall, James Fitzgerald, Charles Edward Deighton, Harry Dennehy, Winifred Galpin, Quido Mitlehener, Mr Peever, Martin Burke, John Smith, Harry Quinn, Margaret Sledmere, Michael Moore, Harry Wakelin, Marjorie Hawkins, William Hamilton, Rachel Valtin-Bennett and Evelyn Canham.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 244.

Stay In Touch

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

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)

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/safeguarding/>

PARISH OFFICE (IN THE PRESBYTERY)

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