

Parish Priest: Fr Bartolomeu Blaj

Deacon: Rev Alan Mair

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Sunday 18th February 2024

A registered charity

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1st Sunday in Lent – Year B

As we begin the season of Lent, the

Gospel reading from Mark presents us with the image of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. This period of testing and temptation follows immediately after Jesus' baptism, where he is affirmed as the beloved Son of God.

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 wilderness represents a place of solitude, struggle, and spiritual testing. It is a place where one confronts their deepest desires, fears, and

vulnerabilities. In this barren landscape, Jesus fasts for forty days and nights, enduring hunger and physical weakness. Yet, it is in this very vulnerability that he encounters the temptations of Satan.

Satan tempts Jesus with the allure of power, prestige, and worldly success. He offers Jesus shortcuts to glory, urging him to satisfy his physical hunger and to assert his authority through miraculous displays. But Jesus resists these temptations with unwavering faith and trust in God's plan.

In the midst of his trial, Jesus is not abandoned. The angels minister to him, offering comfort, strength, and support. This reminds us that even in our darkest moments of temptation and struggle, God's presence is with us, offering us

the grace and strength we need to persevere.

As we reflect on this passage, we are reminded of the reality of temptation in our own lives. Like Jesus, we too are confronted with the lure of worldly pleasures, the desire for power and control, and the temptation to take the easy way out. But Lent invites us to confront these temptations with the same resolve and faithfulness as Jesus.

The message that Jesus proclaims after his time in the wilderness is one of hope and transformation. He announces the arrival of the kingdom of God and calls his listeners to repentance and faith in the Good News. This echoes the invitation of Lent—to turn away from sin and to embrace the Gospel with renewed fervor and commitment.

The painting is by Polish-American artist Eric Armusik taken from

<https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/mark-1-12-15-2024/>

Here you can access the link where is the Message of The Holy father for Lent 2024:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/02/01/240201c.html>

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 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 (Lent)

Lectionary

Sunday Year B: Week 1 of Lent

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Wednesday after the 9.30am Mass, Friday evenings at 6.30pm and 12pm on Sunday (in Romanian).

SECOND COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND

For CAFOD, Lent Fast Day. Please collect an envelope from the porch if you are a tax payer and would like to gift aid your donation. It will be collected next weekend.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENT DATES

BINGO NIGHT – Saturday 24 February 7.30pm in the hall.

AFTERNOON CLUB- is meeting on Wednesday 28 February in the hall.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP- Friday 1 March in the hall at 7:30pm

QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 15 March. SAVE THE DATE!

SVP YOUTH COFFEE MORNING- Sunday 23 March – The Youth SVP would like to start up a second coffee morning each month for the Parish. The first one is to be held in

March after the Sunday morning masses. In response to the growing demand in the community and as a way of saying thank you for supporting our group visits each year, all proceeds will go specifically for the Redbridge Food Bank as part of the Youth Lenten action. More details will follow nearer the date.

LENTEN ALMS & INTENTIONS

Pieces of paper are available at the back of the Church to be placed in the basket at the Sanctuary for our Lenten intentions. We will be donating our Lenten Alms to Aid to the Church in Need's for its various projects in the poorest areas. The red fire extinguisher will be used for the collections.

PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATE

LECTIO DIVINA – every Friday during Lent after morning Mass in the hall. Our focus will be on the Passion of the Lord according to Mark.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT

Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian

Graffy, available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org. Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk.

ACUPUNCTURE

Veronica will be in the hall this Sunday after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. 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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 2024

Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young: Lourdes@brcdt.org

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: 07795 498445, email besouthofengland@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

for St John Bosco Children's Camp: on Saturday 13 April 2024 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster, 7-9pm. Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

BE A VOLUNTEER

At the St John Bosco Children's Camp; from 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

will be hosting a special Anniversary Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 23 April 2024** for service at 1.30pm with Bishop Alan, as guest of honour. Tickets are £34.00 per person and should be purchased before Monday 8th April <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> or here: <https://form.jotform.com/240354018762352>, Please advise Julie of any special dietary requirements or seating requests by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

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.

Masses 17th – 25th February

Mass on Monday is celebrated privately. Exposition of the Blessed Holy Eucharist is at 9am from Wednesday to Saturday. Rosary will be prayed after morning Mass.

Saturday 17th 9.30am
6.30pm Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday 18th 1st Sunday Lent

9.30am
11.30am People of the Parish
12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

Monday - Private Mass

Tuesday 7pm

Wednesday 9.30am

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am

Saturday 24th 9.30am
6.30pm Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday 25th 2nd Sunday Lent

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

Intention for the week - "We pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death. Lord hear us".

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 19th – 25th February

Joseph Swales, Fr Thomas O'Connor, Fr Archibald O'Brien, Michael Joseph Smyth, Mary Geddes, Jean Hawkins, Ethel Millar, Margaret Bryan, Violet Lilian Walker, Dr Vernon Marks, Christopher Spencer, Miss M Robertson, Francis L Thompson, Ellen Connolly, Olive Canning, Ellen Dodsworth, Gordon McHenry, Pam Jones, Margaret Pollard, Teresa Oggero, John Roche, Mr R Kennedy, Patrick Connor.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 253.

Stay In Touch

Follow us on Facebook -
facebook.com/SaintAnneLine and also at
facebook.com/SALSocialCommittee.

Follow us On Twitter/X - @Stannelinesw

Safeguarding Coordinator

Mary Lamb 020 8491 0970
mary-annelamb@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Gift Aid Coordinator

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.

Listen to God (Lectio Divina)

On Friday mornings during Lent we will be meeting in the parish hall after the 9.30am Mass.

Our focus will be on the Passion of the Lord according to Mark.

We will be carrying out the practice of Lectio Divina, which is a prayerful, contemplative reading of scripture.

All are invited to our sessions which, during Lent, will be held in the hall weekly on Fridays after 9.30am mass.

A brief introduction will be given before we start, if needed.

We aim to finish by 11am after which people are free to leave or, if they wish, we can join together for a coffee and informal chat in one of the local coffee shops.

What is Lectio Divina?

Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It is a way of praying the scriptures that leads us deeper into God's word. We can pray this either alone or as part of a group.

How do we do it?

We slow down. We read a short passage more than once. We read it over slowly and carefully. We savour it. Scripture begins to speak to us in a new way. It speaks to us personally, and aids that union we have with God through Christ who is himself the Living Word.

Fr Christopher Jamison, former Abbot of Worth Abbey in Sussex, England in his book Finding Sanctuary writes of three key features:

The first is that "the text is seen as a gift to be received, not a problem to be dissected..... let the text come to you." The second is that the lectio tradition "teaches us that in order to receive what the text has to offer we must read slowly." The third is that lectio is "a way of prayer. Before reading, pray that God will speak to you through the text.

During Lectio Divina, we allow the reading to evolve into meditation and then into prayer and finally contemplation. We then act upon what we have heard God say to us, personally, today.

So, Lectio Divina is not Bible study nor even an alternative to Bible study but something radically different. The practice understands Scripture as a meeting place for a personal encounter with God.

It is a practice where we listen to God with our hearts, not our mind. Through it we allow ourselves to be formed in the likeness of Christ; so it is more about formation rather than instruction. It is hearing God speak to us - or we can say "me" - in a personal way.

When undertaken in a group setting we can listen to others and we can share our own realisation. There is no right or wrong answer. God speaks to each one personally.