

Parish Priest: Fr Bartolomeu Blaj

Deacon: Rev Alan Mair

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Sunday 3rd March 2024

A registered charity

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3rd Sunday in Lent – Year B

As we reflect on the
passage from John

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2:13-25, this 3rd Sunday of Lent, we are confronted with a powerful image of Jesus cleansing the Temple. This event, which took place just before the Jewish Passover, reveals important truths about Jesus' mission and his identity as the

Son of God.

The scene in the Temple is one of chaos and corruption. Jesus finds people selling animals for sacrifice and

money-changers conducting business within the sacred space. In a dramatic display of righteous anger, Jesus overturns tables, drives out the merchants, and declares, "Stop turning my Father's house into a market". This action demonstrates Jesus' zeal for the purity and sanctity of God's house, fulfilling the prophecy, "Zeal for your house will devour me."

<https://www.testifygod.org/jesus-cleanses-the-temple.html>

When challenged by the Jews to provide a sign justifying his actions, Jesus responds enigmatically, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." Though they misunderstand his words, Jesus is referring to the sanctuary of his own body, which will be destroyed and raised again in three days through his death and resurrection. This passage invites us to reflect on several key themes:

- **Reverence for Sacred Spaces:** Jesus' actions in the Temple remind us of the importance of reverence and respect for sacred spaces. The Temple was meant to be a place of prayer and worship, yet it had been commercialised and corrupted. As Christians, we are called to honour the sanctity of our places of worship and to approach them with hearts of reverence and devotion.
- **Righteous Indignation:** Jesus' righteous anger at the exploitation of the Temple teaches us the importance of standing up against injustice and corruption, even within

religious institutions. Like Jesus, we are called to confront wrongdoing with courage and conviction, motivated by love for God and his kingdom.

- **The Mystery of the Resurrection:** Jesus' cryptic statement about raising up the sanctuary of his body foreshadows the central mystery of the Christian faith: his death and resurrection. Through his sacrificial death on the cross and his triumphant resurrection, Jesus offers us the promise of new life and redemption.
- **True Belief and Discipleship:** While many believed in Jesus' name when they witnessed the signs he performed, Jesus did not entrust himself to them because he knew their hearts. This reminds us that true discipleship involves more than just outward signs or expressions of faith; it requires a genuine commitment of the heart and a willingness to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

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 3 (Lent)
Lectionary Sunday Year B: Week 3 of Lent

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

COFFEE MORNING

Next Sunday, 10th March after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. Bacon rolls will be served. All are welcome!

QUIZ NIGHT- 15 MARCH, 7.30pm

Please complete a form found in the porch. £10 pp includes nibbles. 6 to a table. Bring your own drinks.

EASTER HAMPER

Tickets on sale from this weekend. £1 per ticket. Proceeds for the Church Maintenance Fund.

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 St Mark.

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.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENT DATES

AFTERNOON CLUB- is meeting on Wednesday 13 March in the hall.

SVP YOUTH COFFEE MORNING- Sunday 23 March – All proceeds for the Redbridge Food Bank as part of the Youth Lenten action.

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.

VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 5 March at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Deacon Frank Westcott. Contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

LENTEN TALKS

At Brentwood Cathedral, all at 7.30pm.
Wed 6 March Dr Austen Ivereigh
Wed 13 March Bishop Nicholas Hudson.
Please see poster in porch for more details.

GIFT AID 24/25

If you are a taxpayer and have not registered for the Gift Aid scheme here, please contact the Gift Aid coordinator (details at the back of the newsletter) or collect a form from the porch and return to the office. For every £1 donated, the Parish can claim 25p. It does not cost anything extra to Gift Aid your offerings.

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.

40 HOURS DEVOTION

40 hours of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (night and day except during Mass) the weekend of 16-17 March at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall, Ilford IG5 0HE, with Mass of Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 7am on the Saturday and ending with Benediction at 11pm on the Sunday. All are welcome to take part in this very special devotion.

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

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. The next programme in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

URGENT APPEAL

Chingford Across Group urgently need fit able helpers to take sick and terminally ill to Lourdes 9-18 May. Please contact Paul 07919 530916 or Helen 07714 108025.

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

A DAY WITH MARY 2024 PILGRIMAGES

Further information on 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at www adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com

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

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.**

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.

Mass Intentions 2nd – 10th March

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 9.30am

3rd Sunday Lent

Saturday 2nd 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 3rd 9.30am

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm Mass in Romanian

Monday -

Tuesday 7pm

Wednesday 9.30am

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am

Saturday 9.30am

4th Sunday Lent

Saturday 9th 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 10th 9.30am

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm 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

RIP Christakis Michael, father of Julia Strover who died recently. May he rest in peace.

Anniversaries 4th- 10th March

Mary Cable, Mervyn Bocking, Canon J Whitfield, Mrs Connolly, Leonard White, Martin Moore, Fr Thomas Lawton, Jack O'Connor, Mary Martin, Rev. E. Meyer, Ann Van Geller, Mrs Day, Fr Maurice Roche.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 257.

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

Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator

Anthony Collins 020 8989 9547

anthony.collins53@ntlworld.com

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.

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 morning & afternoon and Friday mornings.