

Parish Priest: Fr Bartolomeu Blaj**Deacon:** Rev Alan Mair

Vol.57. No 32

Sunday 11th August 2024

A registered charity

southwoodford@brcdt.org

7, Grove Crescent

South Woodford

London

E18 2JR

020-8989-5242

www.saintanneline.com

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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

This weekend we continue in Ordinary time and with our reading of John's gospel which is so richly textured that it's worth spending a few moments to break it down and follow the flow of what John wanted to present.

The springboard for what Jesus says here is the grumbling complaints of his listeners. John is kind enough to tell us straight away exactly what agitated them: that Jesus claimed to be the bread of life come down from heaven.

Their next words show them to be no different from us, in the modern 21st century: they were thinking practically, and literally. How can this man be bread from heaven, he's a carpenter! We know his parents! That's the context for Jesus' lengthy and quite complicated reply, so let's take it slowly:

Jesus' first line seems to come out of the blue: "no one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father". I say it comes out of the blue, because I don't think people were asking how to come to the Father, they were asking about Jesus as the bread of life!

There's a hidden clue right there, then: to come to Jesus as the bread that comes down from heaven is to be drawn by the Father. It's not something that happens by purely human means. On purely human terms we look and see a wafer of wheat and water baked in an oven. When drawn by the Father, we recognise Jesus.

Jumping down a few lines, Jesus expands on what he means by being drawn by the Father to come to him: it's to hear the teaching of the Father and learn from it. Jesus quotes in this context Isaiah 54:13, where the prophet declares "all your children shall be taught by the LORD". The context here isn't so much about learning from the Father's revelation in scripture or in the creeds and traditions of the Church, but on a direct, personal, perhaps prayerful speaking into a person's heart.

This reading systematically destroys our default materialistic view of the world. Do we really expect that the Father will directly, personally speak into our lives? That means moving far beyond a view of God as quietly governing creation but letting us get on with the nitty gritty of life; the kind of God that, if believed in at all, a lot of people in the western world today would be comfortable with.

But the Bible here presents a God on the move, actively trying to introduce us to his Son. Why? So, he can give us the supreme gift of eternal life. That promise punctuates each section of this passage.

What do we do, then? Are we just passive? Waiting for the Father to go ahead and draw us to Jesus? Or is it a one-time deal: I'm already baptised, he's done that, so I'm on my own now?

We read of Elijah today as well, who received visits from angels and didn't question them. The same Elijah who went to Mount Horeb and encountered God in the stillness.

We can learn from him, and from the Carmelites who have followed in the footsteps of Elijah, how to position ourselves to more easily hear the voice of God, through prayer and attentiveness to the present moment. If we've never been drawn to Jesus, we can do that for the first time; if we've been drawn before but now find ourselves cold and distant from him, we can renew that openness.

It can start with something as simple as closing your eyes and asking God to speak, then giving him space and quiet to do just that. And if he doesn't in that moment, go from that prayer into daily life with your spiritual antennae ready to see which people or situations pop up. It could be exactly those people or situations, speaking from God, that you were asking for. It's an amazing journey, good luck.

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), on Saturday evening before the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and on Sunday before the Holy Masses. 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

Lectionary

Sundays Year B: week 19 Ordinary Time

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

MARY

On Thursday 15 August. It is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass times are 9.30am and 7pm.

We continue the Novena to Our Lady before the Feast of her Assumption into heaven. Here is a good to use:

Mary, Queen Assumed into Heaven, I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift my heart with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity. Teach me how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make me realize that death is the triumphant gate through which I shall pass to your Son, and that someday my body shall re-join my soul in the unending bliss of heaven.

From this earth, over which I tread as a pilgrim, I look to you for help. I ask for this favour: (Mention your request now).

When my hour of death has come, lead me safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity together with you. Amen.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 24/25 **(Year 3+ in September 2024)**

Enrolment forms are in the porch. Deadline for returning the completed form is **15 September**. Please post them through the letter box at 7 Grove Crescent in an envelope. The new programme will commence in the Autumn. Parents should already be providing proof of their children's attendance at Mass by completing a Mass attendance form found in the porch for their children **every Sunday**. **If you are attending Mass at a different Church or if you are on holiday, please ask the priest at that Church to sign the newsletter and hand it in to Fr Barto.**

OUR COMMON HOME – VOTING FORMS

Over the past two weeks we have asked for your opinion on what our parish goals should be in terms of caring for Our Common Home - as per Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si which warns of the problem of the climate crisis and urges all of us to take some action. If you haven't yet completed your voting form please do so asap and place in the box on the table at back of church. Forms are available at the back of church and on our parish website.

LISTEN TO GOD- Lectio Divina

In the parish hall after Friday morning mass we will be praying Lectio Divina. See our website for details or just come along to find out more. <https://saintanneline.com/parish-news/lectio-divina/>

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Club Next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 August at 2pm in the hall.

Young Adults Next meeting in the hall is on 30 August from 7.30pm.

Bingo Night Saturday 21 September from 7.30 pm. Bingo books £5 each. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Table tennis. On Fridays 3-5pm in the hall. Contact Liz on 07403 649 306.

EVANGELIUM 2024

From 16th-18th August for young adults 18-35 at the Oratory School, Woodcote, Oxfordshire with excellent guest speakers. Half price bursaries for students available on application. Please see poster in the porch for more information.

“AWAKE LONDON”

A Catholic Bible convention and Healing ministry on Saturday 17th August 2024 from 11am to 5 pm led by Fr. Moses Enehizena CSSp and Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry UK at Catholic Parish of Christ The King, 455 Chingford Road London, E4 8SP. Convention includes: Praise and Worship, Holy Mass, confession, Healing service and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual sharing, sessions for children (www.afcmuk.org). Free car parking available.

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE

is holding a Celebration of St Faustina's Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 26 August 2024 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE ANNIVERSARY MASS **31st August, Walsingham House at** **Abbotswick**

We invite anyone who may have been involved with Walsingham House over the years to celebrate 40 years of volunteer teams with us, beginning with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan at 12pm and followed by celebrations at our beautiful retreat house just outside Brentwood.

OPEN HOUSE BILLERICAY

On Saturday, 12th October, 9.30am – 5pm the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay will be hosting a day focusing on parish renewal with talks and workshops designed to help parishes transition from maintenance to mission. Bishop Alan will also be presiding at the Midday Mass. The cost is £20 per person. In order to attend you need to register in advance by following this link: <https://divinerenovation.org/events/>

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. Complete one per child and drop the completed form into the box provided **as you leave Church.**

VACANCY

Headteacher Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Chelmsford

Required from 1st September 2025. Group 2: L8 – L21 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 218 (one form entry). Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon on Monday 30th September 2024. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school, please speak with the Admin & Finance Officer, Lindsey

Murgatroyd for more information. For an Application Pack please email: lindseymurgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk

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.

Please also check the notice boards in the porch for other news and information.

Mass Intentions 10th August – 18th August

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 from Wednesday to Saturday.

**Saturday 9.30am Steve Campbell RIP
Vigil Mass 6.30pm Fr Cedrick Stanley RIP**

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sunday 11th 9.30am David Giraldo RIP
11am People of the Parish
Monday Holy Souls**

**Tuesday 7pm Sr Stanislaus Beh RIP
Wednesday 9.30am Morgan-Russell family
Thursday 9.30am Robert Kirby RIP**

The Assumption

7pm People of the Parish
**Friday 9.30am Ints of Jennings family
Saturday 9.30am Ints of Fr Jijo
6.30pm Gabriel Palacio-Aura Vacso RIP
Vigil Mass**

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sunday 18th 9.30am Ints of Veronica Wong
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian**

Intention for the Week: “As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary this coming Thursday, let us pray to imitate Our Lady’s spirit of welcome and charity, especially at the announcement of a new pregnancy. Lord hear us”.

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 12 Aug – 18 Aug

Florence Goldingay, Cornelius Walsh, Doreen Brightwell, Stephanie Kirby, James Ryan, Mary Lonergan, Frank McNeil, Patrick Colfer, Eric Cooper, Francis Doublesin, James Hurley, Maureen Sheehan, Philomena Wallace.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 202.

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@outlook.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)

PARISH OFFICE (IN THE PRESBYTERY)

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

OUR COMMON HOME – VOTING FORMS

If you haven't yet completed your voting form please do so asap and place it in the box on the table at the back of church. Forms are available on our parish website. Please follow this link

<https://saintanneline.com/parish-action-on-our-common-home-your-choice/>

Please return the form to the Parish Office or send to SalWebadmin@btinternet.com