

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

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Sunday 1st December 2024

A registered charity

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1st

Sunday of Advent – Year C

The season of Advent marks a profound period of waiting, preparation, and hope as we begin a new liturgical year. It is a time to ready ourselves to welcome Jesus with love and anticipation, both in celebrating his historical birth and in embracing his presence in our daily lives. This joyful waiting also extends to looking forward to Christ's Second Coming, when he will return in glory to judge the world and unite it with God.



Advent invites us to reflect on the three dimensions of Christ's coming: his birth 2,024 years ago, his ongoing presence through Scripture and the Eucharist, and his eventual return at the end of time. This focus helps to deepen our faith and prepare our hearts for the transformative joy of encountering Christ anew. The word "Advent," derived from Latin roots meaning "to come" or "arrival," reminds us of the arrival of someone important, in this case, the divine King who comes to save and redeem.

The Gospel readings of Advent, such as today's, challenge us to consider the final events of the world, including the cosmic signs of Christ's return. Jesus emphasizes the unpredictability of these events, urging vigilance and spiritual readiness. As Luke writes, we are to live each day as though it were our last, avoiding complacency and worldly distractions. Christ warns against being weighed down by dissipation, drunkenness, and anxiety, calling instead for prayer, repentance, and a focus on eternal life.

This period of waiting is not marked by idleness but by active preparation and hope. Jesus' teaching reminds us that life is a pilgrimage, a journey toward an eternal home. Earthly life is not to be despised but valued as a gift through which we prepare ourselves for the divine. The corrupt and hedonistic tendencies of the Roman era, mentioned in the Gospel, mirror today's materialism, highlighting the need for spiritual discipline and clarity of purpose. Advent calls us to estimate life rightly, seeing it as a means to deepen our relationship with God. Christians are urged to remain watchful and prayerful, fostering an awareness that the "today" of salvation is already here. The Gospel's call for repentance and service emphasizes that the time to prepare is now, not in some distant future. Living with faith, hope, and love becomes a way to anticipate Christ's coming not with fear but with joy and friendship.

As Advent unfolds, we are reminded to embrace each day with a positive attitude, to live fully in the present moment of God's grace, and to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. In this season, may we live by faith, walk in hope, and be renewed in love, so that when Jesus comes again, we welcome him not as strangers but as beloved friends.

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), 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 1
Lectionary Sundays Year C:
Weekdays Advent

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Teresa McGilloway who died on Wednesday 20 November. Her funeral will be held here at Saint Anne Line on November 12th at 12h00. Please remember her family in your prayers. May she rest in peace.

ADVENT PROJECT

The collection during Advent using the **red fire extinguisher** will be for the causes supported by the Friars.

RETIRING COLLECTION – THIS SUNDAY

Will be for WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY - a unique opportunity to celebrate the role and significance of young people in the Catholic Church. There will be a second collection to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Find out more at www.bcys.net, searching @brentwoodcys or if you are able to donate online, please visit www.bcys.net/donate.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next session is on **Sunday 8 December** in the hall.

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING

For new and existing servers on 15 December at 4pm in Church.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 8 December at 4:30pm –at St Thomas of Canterbury, High Road, Woodford Wells, IG8 0SG.

JOURNEY OF FAITH (RCIA)

The course continues on Tuesday 10 December with Holy Mass at 7pm finishing at 9pm at St Anne Line. Please email the parish office or Rev. Alan at alanmair@brcdt.org.

CONTACTLESS MACHINE

You will be able to donate your weekly offertory using your bank card. Please Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer.

SACRED HEART NOVENA

First Friday Novena on **6 Dec** starts at 8.45am with Confession and Adoration. This is on every first Friday of the month until the feast of the Sacred Heart in June 2025.

SATURDAY DEVOTIONS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

First Saturday devotion continues on **Sat 7 Dec** until 7 June 2025 starts from 5:30pm with Adoration, Confession, praying the Rosary, followed by the 6:30pm Mass. During this time you can also have the special presence of the statue of Our Lady in your home. Each Sunday, the statue will be passed to a new household. If you would like to welcome Our Lady into your home, please sign up **for January to March 2025** at the back of the church.

LOYOLA BOYS SCHOLA CHOIR

Will be singing here on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm. All proceeds in aid of the Diocesan Lourdes 2025 pilgrimage. £10 per ticket. From:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/aine-wood-1732115042057?utm_term=bAV/vqvxxXiz on 07403

NATIVITY

The next rehearsal for the nativity will be held on Sunday between 9.30 am and 11 am in the hall.

CCP and APPLICATIONS PROCESS – NURSERY & PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A Certificate for Catholic Practice can only be issued for a family when the priest has evidence that **they attend Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation**. Fortnightly or monthly attendance does not constitute the practice required by the Church's Code of Canon Law.

Hand in or post the following to the presbytery in a sealed envelope by **Sunday 8 December**.

- a) Completed initial CCP Information form to be collected this weekend from the porch
- b) A copy of your child's Baptism Certificate
- c) Completed CCP form (the information about your child), printed from <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Certificate-of-Catholic-Practice.pdf>
- d) Make an appointment with the office by email to see Fr Barto to collect the CCP on **Tuesday 17 December** between 4pm and 6pm.

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**.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Club Next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 December at 2pm in the hall.
Christmas Coffee morning Sunday 8 December.
Christmas Nativity on 21 December at 3pm.
Table tennis. On Fridays 3-5pm in the hall. Contact Liz on 07403 649306.

WORD ON FIRE UK CONFERENCE

Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible. Date: Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025. Location: Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland and more. To register, please visit: <https://events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event>

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/safeguarding/>

PARISH WEBSITE

Our website menu contains the following headers - About Us, Faith in Action, Parish News, Partners, Prayer, Sacraments, Youth, Children's Nativity Play. We have now set up our new Privacy and Cookies policy.

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.

OUR COMMON HOME

There will be a meeting in the parish hall at 6,15 pm on Wednesday 4th December to discuss parish actions to protect Our Common Home, following the thoughts expressed by Pope Francis of the need to heed the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. All are invited to join for prayer and discussion.

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT:

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

SEASONAL MUSIC AND CAROLS

We hope you can join us in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 7th December at 4pm for:-
SEASONAL MUSIC AND CAROLS FOR ALL with the founder members of the Redbridge Youth Choir
Julia Wilson-James Soprano
Stephen King Organ
Joanna Smith Piano
Directed by Roderick Elms

This Concert is to last an hour and will hopefully put us into the Christmas spirit!! Additionally, we would be very grateful at this very busy time of the year if you could tell as many people as possible about this enjoyable Christmas Event. That would be a great help to us!

Admission is free. There will be a Retiring collection in aid of Action Kidney Cancer.

Mass Intentions 30th November – 8th December

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 Fr Barto Ints
Vigil Mass 6.30pm Pat Burton (1st anniv)

1st Sunday Advent

Sunday 1st 9.30am Owen Branley RIP
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian Holy Souls

Monday Holy Souls

Tuesday 7pm William Murphy (anniv)

Wednesday 9.30am Fr Peter Bretaudeau RIP

Thursday 9.30am Julian & Natasha (Thanksgiving)

Friday 9.30am Betty McGovern

Saturday 9.30am Dan O'Donnell RIP

Vigil Mass 6.30pm Fr Barto Ints

2nd Sunday Advent

Sunday 8th 9.30am Mario Godinho RIP
11am People of the

Parish

12.30pm Holy Mass - Romanian

Intention for the week: - "As we ponder the hope found in the second coming of our saviour, we pray for all those in need of hope. We pray especially for those contemplating having an abortion, that they would be reminded of the hope God brings and His fundamental desire for our good. We pray also that as a society we would become channels of God's hope, providing support to all pregnant women. Lord hear us".

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 2 Dec - 8 Dec

Mrs G Herring, Eleanor Barry, Mary Donovan, Mrs Tyler, Kali Hejpetr, Hugh Gaughan, Agnes Garvey, Patrick K Duffy, Ann Quinn, Joan Boatman & Michael Neary, Albert Hodges, Ellen Martin, Frank & Mary Flynn, Cecilia Mann

Last weekend Mass attendance was 245.

Stay In Touch

Follow us on Facebook -

facebook.com/SaintAnneLine and also at facebook.com/SALSocialCommitee.

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

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/>

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.

Spes Non Confundit (Hope does not disappoint) is the recent Papal Bull, issued for the forthcoming Year of Jubilee.

<https://saintanneline.com/faith-in-action/spes-non-confundit-hope-does-not-disappoint/>

Dilexit Nos (He Loved Us)

The recent encyclical of Pope Francis

<https://saintanneline.com/dilexit-nos-he-loved-us/>

Final Document of the Synod Assembly

On Saturday 26th October, the members of the Synod approved the Final Document.

<https://saintanneline.com/synod-2024-final-document/>