

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

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Sunday 8th December 2024

A registered charity

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2nd Sunday of Advent – Year C

On the second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel highlights John the Baptist's call: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." His message of repentance, baptism, and forgiveness resonates today. Baptism symbolizes cleansing and initiation into Jesus' life, repentance demands a heartfelt transformation, and forgiveness restores our relationship with God. John's mission unfolded in the desert, a place of encounter with God, recalling Israel's journey of identity and faith. He urged people to prepare their hearts for the saving power of God by straightening their paths.

Luke connects John's proclamation to Isaiah's prophecy of a new exodus, fulfilled through Jesus, who heals, forgives, and brings hope. This baptism signified submission to God's will, inclusion in His people, and readiness for renewal. John's call prepared people to receive Jesus, whose coming transforms the world forever.

As we prepare for Christ at Christmas, the Gospel challenges us to examine and smooth our paths, ensuring sincerity in welcoming our Savior. Like John, we're called to share Christ's message of love, hope, and peace, helping others in their journey of faith. Amid life's busyness, we must find quiet moments to hear God's voice and deepen our relationship with Him, spreading the joy and light of Christ to others.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary, free from original sin from her conception, pure and radiant, the perfect work of God. She is a reflection of God's infinite beauty, the Virgin of Advent, preparing her heart to receive Jesus with unmatched love. Mary's purity inspires us to ready our hearts for Christ's birth, adorning our spirits to reflect His beauty.



Advent invites us to prayer, love, and purification through confession, renewing our hearts with peace and joy. Let us embrace God's love, filled with hope and new grace, as we prepare for the birth of Christ, our infinite treasure.

By Vatican News: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-11/pope-francis-schedule-christmas-jubilee-liturgies.html>

The Vatican releases the schedule for Pope Francis' liturgies during the Christmas Season, which will see him open the Jubilee Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica and Rome's Rebibbia prison.

Pope Francis will commence the Jubilee of Hope with Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on the night of Christmas eve, opening the Holy Door of the Vatican Basilica.

On Christmas Day, the Pope will deliver his traditional Urbi et Orbi address and blessing "To the City and the World".

Then, on the feast of St. Stephen, December 26, the Holy Father will preside at Mass in Rome's Rebibbia prison to open the only Holy Door not in a papal basilica.

New Year's Eve will see the Pope pray First Vespers and the Te Deum in St. Peter's Basilica at the close of 2024.

The next day, he will preside at Mass to mark New Year's Day and the 58th World Day of Peace.

On January 6, Pope Francis will preside at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

He wraps up the Christmas Season with Mass in the Sistine Chapel on January 12 for the Baptism of the Lord, conferring baptism on several children of Vatican employees.

The Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff announced these papal liturgies for mid-December to mid-January on Monday.

(ZENIT Noticias / Managua, 05.12.2024).-

<https://es.zenit.org/2024/12/05/nicaragua-se-quedara-sin-monjas-y-religiosas-gobierno-las-expulsa-a-todas-y-pone-fecha-para-que-se-vayan/>

The authoritarian government of Daniel Ortega is intensifying its offensive against religious communities in Nicaragua, issuing an ultimatum for all remaining nuns to leave the country by the end of the year. This development, highlighted by legal expert and researcher Martha Patricia Molina, signals an escalation in the regime's campaign against the Catholic Church and its institutions.

Alongside the pressure on nuns, priests continue to face harassment, exile, and denial of entry into Nicaragua. Instead of prolonged detention, priests are now arbitrarily arrested and swiftly deported.

The persecution of religious figures in Nicaragua is not new but has dramatically escalated since April 2018. Molina's research reveals that over 250 members of the clergy and religious orders have been expelled, exiled, or forced to flee due to travel restrictions and threats.

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 2

Lectionary

Sundays Year C: Weekdays Advent week 2

CHRISTMAS MASSES

RETIRING COLLECTION – NEXT SUNDAY

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Will be for flowers in Church at Christmas.

5.30pm	Carols
6.00pm	Holy Mass
8.00pm	Holy Mass in Romanian

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

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

10.00pm	Carols
10.30pm	Midnight Holy Mass

THANK YOU

To everyone who helped and supported the party. A huge thank you to Michelle & Dan for their hard work in organising the Children's Christmas party last Sunday.

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.00am	Holy Mass
11.30am	Holy Mass in Romanian

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Teresa McGilloway who died on Wednesday 20 November. The funeral will be held here, at Saint Anne Line on December 12th at 12.00 noon. Please remember her family in your prayers. May she rest in peace.

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.

ADVENT PROJECT

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

NATIVITY PLAY

We invite all parishioners to join us to see our first Nativity play on 21st of December at 3pm and afterwards to enjoy refreshments in the parish hall.

Rehearsal – on Sunday 8th of December, at 2pm in the church.

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.

Youth SVP Group

The Youth SVP Group will be visiting the Redbridge Food Bank on Saturday morning to help with the Christmas boxes. To support the centre this Christmas, the group will also be selling tradecraft Christmas cards in the hall after the Sunday masses and collecting food donations to take to the centre for Christmas. Any donations of dried packet and tinned foods are much appreciated. Please bring them into the hall and do not leave them in the porch.

CCP and APPLICATIONS PROCESS –

NURSERY & PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Make an appointment if you have not done so 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.

SACRED HEART NOVENA

First Friday Novena 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 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.

Dear Pro-Life supporter,

As you may be aware, on Friday the 29th November there was a vote in Parliament on an Assisted Suicide Bill, put forward by Kim Leadbeater MP. Sadly 330 MPs voted in favour of this tragic bill, which means that it will go to a third reading and could become law. It is thought that the third reading in Parliament will take place sometime in April 2025. Therefore we're asking you to join in the request of Our Lady of Fatima, by making the First Five Saturdays starting on Saturday the 7th December and then on the following four first Saturdays of each month leading up to Saturday 5th April 2025.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Club Next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 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

Please, note the toilet light is now set to operate automatically

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/>

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. Also check our parish website <https://saintanneline.com/>

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London

is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at All Saints Church 531 Kenton Road Kenton London HA3 0UL on the corner of Claremont Avenue; 600 yards west of Kingsbury Circus/Kingsbury TfL Station, via Bus 183 on Saturday 14 December 2024 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Holy Rosary, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. For more info call millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646). No need to register for retreat - **St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford**

Headteacher Required from September 2025

All the details are on the Diocesan website: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09_1200_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf

Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is 9th December.

Mass Intentions 7th – 15th 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. Lectio Divina is prayed in the parish hall after Friday Mass.

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 in Romanian

Monday 9.30am Holy Souls

Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception

Tuesday 7pm Holy Souls

Wednesday 9.30am Pascoal Joao Godinho RIP

Thursday 9.30am Robert Kirby RIP

**12.00 Teresa McGilloway
Funeral Mass**

Friday 9.30am Joan Power

Saturday 9.30am Fr Barto Ints

Vigil Mass 6.30pm Atal/Singh family Ints

3rd Sunday Advent

Sunday 15th 9.30am Doris Vargas Oyarzun
11am People of the Parish
12.30pm Holy Mass - Romanian

Intention for the week: - "8th of December, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, God has lovingly and especially prepared a mission for each of us. Let us pray that all unborn children would be welcomed and cherished so that they, too, may set out to fulfil the mission the Lord has planned for them. Lord hear us".

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 9 Dec - 15 Dec

Ted Mlynski, Margaret A Ward, Mrs Coy, Catherine Ely Higgins, Miss S Connell, Kathleen Garbutt, Mary Oksuz, Eileen ("Nellie") Carney, Delia Payne, Mr C Madden, Mr N Foley, John Dickinson, Mary Fitzgerald, Fr Gerard Kerr and Larry Aylward, Ellen Barry, Bernard Mitchell, Desmond Hand
Last weekend Mass attendance was 256.

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).

Safeguarding Coordinator

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

Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator

Anthony Collins 020 8989 954
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>

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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.

For countries at war - Pope Francis

Please, let us continue to pray for peace! War is a human defeat; it does not solve problems but only brings destruction. So many children and innocents

die! Let us pray for all countries at war. Let us always pray for peace.