

# St Anne Line Catholic Church

A registered Charity. No. 230492

**WELCOME** to the weekly newsletter of the Catholic Church of St Anne Line in South Woodford!

Parish Priest: Fr Bartolomeu Blaj

Deacon: Rev Alan Mair



vol. 58 no. 48 30th November 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent– Year A

## *Message of the week*

The Latin word adventus—meaning “coming” or “arrival”—opens for Christians a season of profound spiritual expectation. In the Church’s liturgy, Advent encompasses the four weeks preceding Christmas, inviting the faithful into a sacred journey of hope, repentance, and renewed longing for the Lord. Marked by the liturgical color purple, Advent is a time of interior purification, a gentle summons to prepare our hearts for God’s transforming presence.

Advent carries a triple spiritual dimension that shapes Christian life. First, it calls us to remember the past, contemplating with reverence the mystery of Christ’s Incarnation. In the humility of Bethlehem, the eternal Word took on flesh, embracing poverty and human vulnerability. His first coming was marked not by power but by tenderness—a revelation of divine love dwelling among us.

Second, Advent urges us to live the present with awakened awareness of Christ’s continual presence. The Lord has not abandoned His Church; He walks with us in Scripture, in the sacraments, and in the quiet movements of grace within our hearts. To live Advent spiritually is to stay vigilant, to allow Christ to shape our daily actions in justice, mercy, and love. Every moment becomes an opportunity to manifest His light in a world yearning for hope.

Finally, Advent directs our gaze toward the future, toward the promised Second Coming of Christ in glory. At His Parousia, Christ will reveal Himself as Lord and Judge, bringing the fullness of salvation to all who have sought to live as faithful children of the Father and loving brothers and sisters to one another. This eschatological hope invites us to conversion, encouraging us to examine our spiritual life, renew our intentions, and commit ourselves anew to holiness.

In a culture filled with distractions, Advent gently reminds us to guard our faith, resist superficial excess, and enter more deeply into the mystery of God’s coming. It is a season not merely to prepare for Christmas, but to prepare for eternity.

## *Fr Barto*

### **PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Afternoon Club** Meet in the hall at 2pm on **Wednesday 3 Dec 2025**

**Parish Youth Group (11-18) –6 December** in the Parish Hall at the earlier time of 4.45pm.

**Children’s Christmas Party – 7 December** in the Parish Hall, 2-4pm, £6 per child. Please book by **30 November** using the QR code below:



**Christmas Coffee Morning** on **Sunday 14 December** after the 9.30am and 11am Masses.

**Table tennis.** Every Friday 3-5pm. Contact Liz on 07403 649306

### **Mass Intentions 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025**

#### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday Vigil Mass**

**9.30am Michael Munds RIP**

**6.30pm Fr Brian McWilliams RIP**

#### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am Joseph & Angela Bennici RIP**

**11am People of the Parish**

**12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian**

#### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> (celebrated privately)**

#### **Holy Souls**

#### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**7pm Alessia Ints**

#### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**9.30am Rita O’Hare RIP**

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9.30am Maureen & Norah (In Thanksgiving)**

#### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9.30am Ann Kyndt Ints**

#### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Vigil Mass**

**9.30am Dec’d Keating & Colleran families**

**6.30pm Fr Francis McLaughlin RIP**

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am Louis & Phelomena Wong RIP**

**11am People of the Parish**

**12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian**

#### **From Wednesday to Saturday**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8.45am.**

**Morning prayer 9.10am**

**Holy Rosary 10.00am**

**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, Spanish and Romanian.

#### **LECTIO DIVINA**

We pray Lectio Divina after morning mass each Friday in the parish hall. Come along and find out more.

#### **CHILDREN’S LITURGY- TERM TIME ONLY**

The children’s Liturgy for Primary School Children on Sunday at the 11am Mass.

#### **DIVINE RENOVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 11 December, 7.15pm in the hall.

#### **NEXT ALTAR SERVERS MEETING**

On Saturday 13 December at 4pm in the presbytery for all altar servers.

## **BISHOP EMERITUS THOMAS McMAHON RIP**

Please see obituary for Bishop Thomas who died aged 89 on Monday 24 November on the diocesan website. May he rest in peace.

[www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/diocese-mourns-bishop-thomas-mcmahon-rip/](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/diocese-mourns-bishop-thomas-mcmahon-rip/)

On Sunday 14 December at 4 p.m. when Mass will be celebrated the body will be received into the Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood, CM15 8AT on Monday 15 December where Vespers will be sung at 5 p.m. The Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 16 December in the Cathedral at 11.30 a.m.

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS 2025**

Please collect a Christmas card from the porch which has details of Mass and Confession times for Advent and the Christmas period.

## **ADVENT TREE**

The Advent tree will be at the altar for you to write your petitions to our Lord on the leaf and attach it to the branches of the tree (found on the table at the back of Church)

## **ADVENT & RETIRING COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND**

This will be for the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal who will be visiting the Parish next weekend at the start of Advent. Parishioners are encouraged to Gift Aid their donations to the Friars (Gift aid forms in the porch). During Advent the **red** fire extinguisher will be used for causes supported by the Friars.

## **DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026**

These are on sale at £3.20 each in the porch. Money in the 'publication' wall box in the porch

## **FRIDAY DEVOTIONS TO THE SACRED HEART**

First Friday Novena on 5 December at 8.45am with Confession & Adoration.

## **SATURDAY DEVOTIONS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

On Saturday 6 December from 5.30pm with Adoration, Confession and Rosary.

## **CCP and APPLICATIONS PROCESS – NURSERY & PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ONLY**

Fr Barto will be referring to completed weekly Mass attendance sheets before issuing a CCP.

Hand in or post the following to the presbytery in a sealed envelope by **Monday 8 December**:

- Completed initial CCP Information form to be collected this weekend from the porch
- A copy of your child's Baptism Certificate
- Completed CCP form (the information about your child). Collect from the porch.
- Make an appointment with the office by email to see Fr Barto on **Wednesday 17 December** between 4pm and 6pm

## **WEEKLY MASS ATTENDANCE FORMS**

It is **imperative** that you complete this form for the Sacraments, (FHC & Confirmation) and for nursery, primary & secondary Catholic Schools. Forms are in the porch.

## **PRAYER SPONSORS NEEDED for FHC**

We need 10 prayer sponsors to pray for the children making their First Holy Communion next summer. Your name & address will be passed to one of the children who will write to you and introduce themselves. Please contact Joanna on 07852 923376.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY for PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

On **Sunday 7 December 2-4pm £6** per child. Please pay using the QR code on the poster in the porch by 30 November. Contact Michelle Jeyes on 07900 924 844 if you have queries. Use this link to pay. <https://pay.collctiv.com/2025-st-anne-lines-kids-christmas-party-77672>

## **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY- SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER**

**Next rehearsal 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm.** Children of all ages are invited to take part in this year's Nativity. Contact Tina Marrai for further information on 07941 227743.

## **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS**

Congratulations to Odelle, Anthony Dixon and Gerald all of whom bought raffle tickets. Please see Father to collect your prizes from the Sacristy.

## **MISSIO RED BOXES**

If you have not yet returned your Red Box please do so as soon as possible. (It does not need to be full). New boxes are available in the church porch.

## **WOODFORD FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ADVENT SERVICE**

at St Thomas of Canterbury church on 7th December at 4.30pm to be followed by refreshments.

## **MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 11-18 MAY (£770) & 8-15 SEPTEMBER 2026 (£789)**

A £30 discount will be given to those who book and pay a £150 deposit before the end of January 2026. Includes flights, luggage, transfers, half board at the hotel, and guide for the week. For further information phone Gail on 07989 879148 or email [gail.hewett@hotmail.com](mailto:gail.hewett@hotmail.com).

## **DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS**

Please see list of items needed in the porch

Last weekend Mass attendance was 284. Thank you for your collection offerings, including the collection for Youth Sunday and also your standing orders.

## **St Anne Line Catholic Church**

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telephone: 020-8989-5242

email: [southwoodford@brcdt.org](mailto:southwoodford@brcdt.org)

## **Find us online**

Church website: [www.saintanneline.com](http://www.saintanneline.com)

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintAnneLine/>

Diocese of Brentwood website:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/>



## **YEAR OF JUBILEE**

Web resources - 1) Pilgrims of Hope - <https://saintanneline.com/year-of-jubilee-pilgrims-of-hope/> 2) The Word - <https://saintanneline.com/parish-bulletins/>

## **YEAR OF JUBILEE APP**

The 'jubilee25' app can be downloaded to your phones.



## **Pope Leo - Dillexit Te**

First encyclical from Pope Leo - check our web page

<https://saintanneline.com/blog-2/>

## **Please pray for those who are sick**

## **Anniversaries 1- 7 Dec**

Mary Finch, Mrs J O'Shea, Mr A Hassell, Mrs Lawrence, Daniel Donovan, 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.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**John Hehir**, who died on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November. We do not have details of his funeral yet. Please keep his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

**PARISH OFFICE (IN THE PRESBYTERY)** The Parish secretary is in the office on **Monday afternoons (not on Bank holidays), all day Wednesday and Friday mornings.**

## **CARDS & MASS CARDS FOR SALE IN THE PORCH**

Please leave the money in the wall box.

**Please check the notice boards in the porch and our parish website for other news and information.**

## **Apostolic Journey to Turkey and Lebanon**

I ask you to accompany me with your prayers as I travel to Turkey and then to Lebanon to visit the dear people of those countries, rich in history and spirituality. It will also be an occasion to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicea and to meet the Catholic community, our Christian brothers and sisters, and people of other religions. (Pope Leo)

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 Taxpayer.

