

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. 50 14th December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent— Year A

Message of the week

The readings of this Sunday invite us to rejoice because the Lord is near. The image of the desert becomes central: once seen as a barren and desolate place, Scripture transforms it into the place of Israel's purification and encounter with God. In the desert God forms His people, provides for them, and shows His faithful love. Isaiah's prophecy of the desert blooming expresses this truth: even in our own moments of trial and dryness, God comes personally to strengthen us—"Be strong, do not fear."

This message of courage is echoed in the experience of John the Baptist. Imprisoned and facing uncertainty, he wonders whether Jesus is truly the Messiah. Jesus answers not with theories but with signs: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor receive good news. John understands—Christ is indeed the One who was to come—and he remains faithful even unto death. His struggle and victory remind us that faith perseveres, especially in moments of darkness.

Our joy this Sunday is rooted in this certainty: God Himself comes to save us. He comes into our deserts to make them blossom, He comes at Christmas in humility, and He comes to fulfill every promise of salvation.

Advent calls us to cultivate authentic Christian joy—a joy born not from noise or material gifts, but from friendship with God and the victory of Christ over sin and death. This joy leads us to prepare spiritually through repentance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Advent also urges us to meet Christ with good works, especially through joyful charity in our homes and toward the poor. By loving others, we help the world's deserts to bloom.

Christ's coming invites us to take part in His mission. Like John the Baptist, every Christian is called to prepare the way for the Lord through witness, service, and renewed apostolic zeal.

Fr Barto

Masses at Christmas 2025

Wednesday 24th December

5.30pm Carols

6.00pm Holy Mass

8.00pm Holy Mass in Romanian

10.00pm Carols

10.30pm Midnight Holy Mass

Thursday 25th December

10.30am Holy Mass

12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Christmas Coffee Morning on Sunday 14 December after the 9.30am and 11am Masses. Sale of Christmas Bazaar items at the Coffee morning. Please bring cash!

Afternoon Club Meet in the hall at 2pm on **Wednesday 17 Dec 2025**

Table tennis. On Friday 3-5pm. Closed until 9 January 2026. Contact Liz on 07403 649306.

Mass Intentions 13th Dec – 21st Dec 2025

Saturday 13th-Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Fr Jim Lynch RIP

6.30pm Atal/Singh family Ints

Sunday 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Gloris Isaza Ints

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

3pm Fellowship Mass

Monday 15th (celebrated privately)

Aloysius Chin RIP

Tuesday 16th

7pm Jayanthi RIP

Wednesday 17th

9.30am Bob & Anne Power RIP

Thursday 18th

9.30am Mary Lynch RIP

Friday 19th

9.30am Holy Souls

11am Funeral Mass Patrick Oates RIP

Saturday 20th-Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Dec'd Burton/McCormack families

6.30pm Bishop Thomas McMahon RIP

Sunday 21st 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30am David Wong & family Ints

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.

RETIRING COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This will be flowers in Church for Christmas.

POINSETTIA's FOR THE CRIB

Please bring a potted poinsettia to be placed around the Crib.

ADVENT COLLECTION

During Advent the **red** fire extinguisher will be used for causes supported by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

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).

BISHOP EMERITUS THOMAS McMAHON RIP

The Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 16 December in the Cathedral at 11.30 a.m. It will be livestreamed from the Cathedral: at: <https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-Thomas>.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY- SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

We invite all parishioners to join us at the Nativity play at 3pm in Church and to enjoy refreshments, mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

HELP needed - volunteers to set up the hall and donations of mince pies etc for the refreshments after the nativity. Contact Tina if you can help – 07941 227 743.

Next rehearsal: This Sunday 14th December at 2pm in Church

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026

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

CCP and APPLICATIONS PROCESS – NURSERY & PRIMARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ONLY

Please make an appointment with the office by email to see Fr Barto on **Wednesday 17 December** between 4pm and 6pm if you have not done so.

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.

STATUES OF OUR LADY & SACRED HEART OF JESUS

If you would like to welcome the blessed statues into your home, please sign up for **January to March 2026** at the back of Church.

PRAYER SPONSORS for First Holy Communion

Thank you to the parishioners who have agreed to be prayer sponsors.

PARISH WEBSITE

Updated parish website pages - Christmas Services ; Parish News & Events; Bishop Thomas Funeral Services; Our Youth.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Huge thank you to Michelle for organizing the enjoyable party. Thank you too to those who helped and attended the party.

PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY - REMINDER

Parishioners are welcome to take their own photos or videos at such parish events, whether informal or formal. However, parishioners must not post on any social media platform any photos or videos that include images of any children other than their own or of vulnerable adults for whom they are responsible.

DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

Please see list of items needed in the porch. These items are collected on behalf of the Franciscan Friars in Canning town.

"AWAKE LONDON"- Saturday 20 December, 12.45pm – 4.45pm

A Catholic Bible convention and Healing led by Rev.Fr.Shajin Jose Anthony and Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry UK at Catholic Parish of Christ The King, 455 Chingford Road London,E4 8SP.

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE

is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on Saturday 20 December from 1 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF .Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

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

Last weekend Mass attendance was 215. Thank you for your collection offerings for last weekend and your standing orders.

St Anne Line Catholic Church

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Find us online

Church website: 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 - Dillect Te

First encyclical from Pope Leo - check our web page

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

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 15-21 Dec

Ellen Barry, Bernard Mitchell, Desmond Hand, Mr J Norton, William Dunseath, James Keohane, Sheilagh Tembey, John Hodginson, Mrs D Bulman, Lawrence Caroll, Bertha Hodges, Mrs R Elstone, Maurice Hartnett and Teresa Wood.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

John Hehir who died on Friday 21st November. His funeral will be held here on **Wednesday 7 January 2026** at 11am. 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.

Pope's Prayer for December

For Christians in areas of conflict:

God of peace, who through the blood of Your Son has reconciled the world to Yourself, today we pray for Christians living amidst wars and violence. (clicktopray.org)

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.

