

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



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4th Sunday of Advent– Year A

Message of the week

The liturgy of the Word for the Fourth Sunday of Advent can be summarized in the word Emmanuel, meaning “God with us.” This Sunday announces the imminent coming of the Son of God and presents Christmas as the fulfillment of God’s promises and covenant with humanity. The Scriptures affirm that all prophecies reach their completion in Jesus Christ, the culmination of God’s loving and faithful alliance begun throughout salvation history and brought to fullness in the Incarnation. In Christ, God reveals Himself definitively, offering salvation through His death and resurrection, and no further public revelation is to be expected. The mystery of Christ rests on His true incarnation, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary. Mary and Joseph appear as faithful servants of God’s plan: Mary through her total obedience and “yes” to God’s will, and Joseph through his righteousness, humility, and trust in God despite uncertainty. Together, they embody perfect faith and cooperation with God’s saving design.

As we enter the celebration of Christmas, this mystery of Emmanuel invites us not only to contemplate God’s nearness, but also to welcome it personally into our lives. Christmas is not merely the remembrance of a past event; it is the living proclamation that God continues to dwell among His people. In the humility of the manger, God reveals a love that does not impose itself, but patiently awaits our response. The Incarnation shows us that divine greatness is expressed through simplicity, closeness, and self-giving love.

Spiritually, Christmas calls us to interior silence and openness, so that, like Mary, we may allow God’s word to take flesh within us. Her fiat becomes a model for our own spiritual journey: trusting God even when His plans surpass our understanding. Joseph likewise teaches us attentive obedience, a faith that listens, discerns, and acts with courage and tenderness. Their example encourages us to live Christmas not as spectators, but as participants in God’s saving work.

In welcoming Christ, we are invited to renew our commitment to live as children of the light, allowing the presence of Emmanuel to transform our relationships, our priorities, and our daily choices. The birth of Christ brings hope to a wounded world, reminding us that God enters human fragility to redeem it from within. Thus, Christmas becomes a school of faith, humility, and charity, where we learn to recognize God’s presence in the ordinary, and to become bearers of His love to others.

A WARM AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH ONE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

Fr Barto

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Club Meet in the hall at 2pm on **Wednesday 31 January 2025.**

Christmas Coffee Morning on **Sunday 4 January 2026** after the 9.30am and 11am Masses

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

Mass Intentions 20th Dec – 28th Dec 2025

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

Monday 22nd

9.30am Edviges Godinho RIP

Tuesday 23rd

9.30am Anne Hanrahan RIP

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve

6.00pm Jesse (Advent) tree intentions & Family Ints

(Vigil Mass of Christmas)

8.00pm Holy Mass in Romanian

10.30pm The Sick & Housebound

(Midnight Mass)

Thursday 25th – Christmas Day

10.30am Rev Alan Mair Ints

12.30pm Fr Barto Ints (Holy Mass in Romanian)

Friday 26th St Stephen

9.30am In Thanksgiving (Lee family)

11.30am Holy Mass in Romanian

Saturday 27th-Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Fr Barto Ints

6.30pm Ignatius Wong RIP

Sunday 28th Holy Family

9.30am Yliana Hermoza RIP

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 20 Dec 10am – 11am

3pm – 6pm

Monday 22 Dec 10am -11am

Tuesday 23 Dec 10am – 12pm

LECTIO DIVINA

We pray Lectio Divina after morning mass each Friday in the parish hall. We next meet on 2 January in the 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.

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

MASS ON MONDAY 22 DEC & TUESDAY 23 DEC

Please note Holy Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am next week.

FR BARTO'S DEPARTURE & FR CELESTINE'S ARRIVAL

Fr Barto will leave St Anne Line parish on Wednesday 7 January 2026 and take up his new position as Parish priest in Chelmsford. We are all saddened by this news, but we wish him the very best for the future. We welcome Fr Celestine Onwuekwe as our new parish priest who joins us from The Holy Spirit Church in Great Bardfield. He will celebrate his first Holy Mass on at 6.30pm on Saturday 10th January 2026.

FR BARTO'S FAREWELL

On 3rd January at 3 pm in the hall: Join us as we say farewell to Father Barto who will be leaving our Parish on the 7th January. Contact Tina Marrai on 07941227743 for more information or if you can help.

THANK YOU

To everyone who helped in the Christmas celebrations: the altar servers, readers, musicians, stewards, flower arrangers and cleaners.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

As in all parishes, the Christmas collection is your personal gift to your parish priest. Every penny specifically donated at Christmas (together with any Gift Aid on qualifying donations) will be used to support your local priest/s. Some will wish to contribute separately to this collection at this time and this could be a one-off BACS transaction marked 'Christmas' (with gift aid number if applicable), or a marked envelope (again with gift aid number if applicable) or using the contactless machine at the back of Church.

CRIB OFFERINGS

There will be no retiring collections over Christmas – you are encouraged to make donations to Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) through Crib Offerings. Donations can be placed in the fire extinguisher next to the crib.

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

If you wish to come up for a blessing instead, please indicate this by crossing both arms across your chest.

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).

NATIVITY PLAY

Thank you to the children who took part and the parents who supported the nativity play. A big thank you to the organisers who spent many hours with the children during rehearsals and making their costumes. We thank the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Redbridge for attending this.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026

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

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.

SACRED HEART NOVENA

Next First Friday Novena starts at 8.45am with Confession and Adoration on 2 Jan 2026.

SATURDAY DEVOTIONS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Next First Saturday devotion on 3 January 2026.

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.

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



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 22-28 Dec

Denis Harty, Catherine Bell, Giuseppe Rava, Elizabeth Karley, Margaret Walton, Patrick Oates, Eilish Laar, George Booth, Charles William Long, Mrs Noble, Mr Kelleher, Jim Martin, Alice Doyle, Leonard German, Joseph Lavery, William J Barry, Agnes Tilley & Mrs J King, Albert Hodges, Emily Magorian, Irena Powichrowska, Mary Ann Clare Pilagos.

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.

Prepare for Christ's coming, don't get lost in frenetic activity.

Pope Leo XIV underlines the importance of Advent as a time of preparation, prayer, and reflection so that we may welcome the birth of Christ at Christmas. (Full article on Vatican News [click to view](#))

St Anne Line Catholic Church

7 Grove Crescent, South Woodford
London E18 2JR

telephone: 020-8989-5242

email: southwoodford@brcdt.org

Find us online

Church website: www.saintanneline.com

Facebook page:

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

Diocese of Brentwood website:

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

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.

