

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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Holy Family– Year A

Message of the week

By contemplating the Holy Family of Nazareth, we discover a mirror in which every human family can see itself. The Word of God, from the book of Sirach to the Gospel, insists on a fundamental truth: honoring one's parents is not merely an ancient command, but a source of life, blessing, and true humanity. Respect, gratitude, and mutual care are essential foundations for a healthy society.

The family is the first school, the place where we learn how to love, to give thanks, to respect others, and to make sacrifices. No institution can replace it. When these values are not passed on, people grow up fragile, unable to recognize the good they have received or to take responsibility for their lives. Educating children requires time, effort, and balance: accompanying them without controlling them, protecting them without preventing them from growing. Only in this way can children mature in freedom and responsibility.

The Holy Family did not live an idealized life. It was a poor, hardworking family marked by insecurity, flight, and exile. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus experienced fear, uncertainty, and the hardship of daily life. In them, we see reflected the suffering of many families today who face forced migration, unemployment, or violence. Jesus chose to share this vulnerability so that he could be close to everyone, especially the most vulnerable.

Nazareth teaches us that holiness is shaped in ordinary life. Silence, humble work, and family life were the setting in which Jesus grew in wisdom and grace. There we discover the dignity of daily effort, fidelity in small things, and a simple life lived with love.

In a world wounded by violence, disregard for life, abortion, family breakdown, and the loss of values, the Christian family stands as a sign of hope. It is a reflection of the Trinity, a communion of love in which each person is welcomed as a gift. Christian marriage is a vocation to total, faithful, and fruitful love, called to reflect Christ's love for his Church.

The Holy Family invites us to rebuild a home atmosphere marked by prayer, work, sacrifice, and tenderness. Amid trials and limitations, it reminds us that love lived with fidelity transforms daily life into a path of salvation and quietly renews the world.

Fr Barto

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

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

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

St Anne Line Feast Day on Saturday 31 January 2026, 7.30pm in the hall. International themed shared supper.

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

Mass Intentions 27th Dec – 4th Jan 2026

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

Monday 29th

9.30am Anna Enkenhus Int

Tuesday 30th

9.30am Parimala Selvi Int

Wednesday 31st – Te Deum

9.30am Fernando Hermoza Int

11.30am Holy Mass in Romanian

Thursday 1st – *Mary, Mother of God*

12am Peace in the World *Midnight Mass*

11am Peace in the World

12.30pm Fr Barto Ints (Holy Mass in Romanian)

Friday 2nd

9.30am Anthony Koh & Anna Lee (health recovery)

Saturday 3rd-Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Tony Ogdin (anniv)

6.30pm Fr Derek Lance RIP

Sunday 4th *2nd Sunday of Christmas*

9.30am Veronica Wong Ints

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

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. 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.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you for your gifts and cards this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you also for the Christmas collection. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the church look festive and to Rev Alan Mair, the altar servers, the choir, stewards, readers, the cleaners, flower arrangers and many others who helped prepare us for the Feast.

DEACON GABRIEL TEBREAN

We welcome Deacon Gabriel who joins us this weekend from the Diocese of Paris. He was here at St Anne Line as a seminarian two summers ago.

NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION & MASS

11pm -12am Adoration followed by Mass at midnight. New Year celebration in the hall after Mass. Do bring food and drink to share.

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 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.

HELP NEEDED TO TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

On Wednesday 7 January from 12.30pm onwards (after the funeral).

DIVINE RENOVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Continues on Thursday 29 January 2026 at 7.20pm in the hall.

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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Sunday 18th January 5.30 pm at St Mary's Woodford. Prayer Service followed by refreshments.

DIOCESAN 2026 DIRECTORY

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.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY

Follow this link to view photos

<https://saintanneline.com/parish-events-2/parish-activity/nativity-play-2025/>

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.

BISHOP RICHARD MOTH appointed ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed the Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster. Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015. Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Cardinal Nichols will become Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster until Archbishop-elect Moth is Installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026.

DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS (COLLECTED FOR THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS)

Please see list of items needed in the porch.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 272. Thank you for your collection offerings last weekend and also 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 29 Dec – 4 Jan

Mr Cassidy, Mary Healey, Joyce Collins, Mr Poulain, Celia McHugh, Fr Brian Reeves, Dr John De Larcy, Margaret Delaney, Catherine McDonald, Tony Mara, Gertrude Henderson, Mr F Pride, Anna Thurlow, Mrs M Stewart, Eric Sledmere, Walter Palmer, Michael Conroy, Joanna Margaret O'Reilly, Tony Ogdin, Charles Murphy, Francis C Baker, Robert Wallace.

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.

For all the children of the world

- Pope Leo XIV

Dear children, as you stand before your Nativity scenes, please pray to Jesus for the Pope's intentions as well. In particular, let us pray together that all the world's children may live in peace. I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

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.

