

# 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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4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas – Year A

## *Message of the week*

On the 28th of September 2020, I arrived in London at Heathrow Airport. Rev Alan and Cathy were there to welcome me, and after about an hour and a half by car, we arrived at Saint Anne Line, where I met the secretary, Anne and Fr. Neil. That day marked the beginning of a journey that I could not fully imagine at the time.

I arrived in an unknown place, facing a new challenge, with a language that was entirely new to me. I came from Latin America, without knowing English but filled with confidence, strong faith, and great enthusiasm. I have always loved challenges, but above all, I have always allowed myself to be guided by God.

I arrived during one of the hardest moments of recent history: the COVID pandemic. For a long time, we could not meet face to face. Our contact was distant, often behind masks, without the chance to truly see your faces. Even when I encouraged you not to forget to smile, it was difficult to see those smiles, but I could always see the light in your eyes.

Here, I discovered a beautiful, dynamic, and well-organized community, rich in volunteers and filled with a deep desire to bring more people closer to God. With your patience in trying to understand me, and with my efforts to learn English, together we continued the mission of this parish. Step by step, we built not just a parish, but a family.

From the very beginning, Bishop Alan told me that his wish was for this place to become a nest, a home, where I would feel truly at ease. And that is exactly what happened. This place became my home, and you became my family “the most beautiful place on earth”, where Jesus is present among us.

After a little more than five years, the Bishop has asked me to accept a new mission and has appointed me to a new parish. I thank him for the trust he placed in me from the very beginning, and the Vicar General through whom I came here.

But above all, I thank each one of you.

It has been a privilege and a blessing to serve here and to work alongside you. I have learned so much from you, and I have tried to give everything I could for this community. I leave a part of my heart here, filled by this beautiful parish. I will carry you with me in my heart and in my prayers.

Please, do not forget to pray for me, that the Lord may continue His mission in me, wherever He sends me.

Please welcome Fr Celestine, help him settle in and with your help and support this parish will continue to be the ‘best place in the world’.

Once again, thank you for everything. I love you all.

Don't forget: Be holy! Be happy! Be blessed! Do good! Smile!

## *Fr Barto*

### PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan– 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>-Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Tony Ogdin (anniv)

6.30pm Fr Derek Lance RIP

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

9.30am Veronica Wong Ints

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm Holy Mass in Romanian

#### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> (celebrated privately)

Brian Sturt (anniv)

#### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Epiphany of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

9.30am Ann Kyndt Ints

7pm People of the Parish

#### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

9.30am John Hehir RIP

11am Funeral Mass – John Hehir RIP

#### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

NO HOLY MASS

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

NO HOLY MASS

#### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> -Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am NO HOLY MASS

6.30pm Anne Morton (anniv)

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord

9.30am People of the Parish

11am Dominic & Elijah Thanksgiving

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.

#### 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.

#### DIVINE RENOVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

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

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

## **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

On Tuesday 6 January. Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am and 7pm.

## **EPIPHANY BLESSING**

Please take a sticker for your front door with the following blessing:

20 + C + M + B + 26. The C M B serves two meanings: The initials of the wise men.

The first letters of the Latin phrase: Christus mansionem benedicat (May Christ bless the house).

## **BLESSING OF HOLY WATER**

There will be holy water for you to take home which Fr Barto will be blessing at all Masses. This can be used to bless your homes.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## **FR BARTO'S FAREWELL- Notification of Intention to take photos**

In line with the parish Photography & Filming policy, we are giving notice that photos will be taken at the Fr Barto's Farewell event on 3rd January 2026. With the subjects' consent, some photos may be used on the parish website and/or social media pages.

Parishioners taking photos, are reminded that they should not post on social media, photos of any children (or vulnerable adults) other than their own. Further information can be found in the Data Protection/Privacy Notice at <https://saintanneline.com/parish-safeguarding>

[officer/policies/important-information-re-photography-and-filming-on-church-premises/](#) and a paper copy of this Notice will be displayed on the notice board in the church porch.

## **HELP NEEDED TO TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

On **Tuesday 6 January after the morning Mass.**

## **NO MORNING MASS from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

To enable Fr Celestine to move into the presbytery and settle in, morning Masses will not be celebrated on these days.

## **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.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**John Hehir** who died on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Mary Pamplin** her funeral will be held on 9 January 2026 at City of London Cemetery in The Traditional Chapel at 1.15pm

## **BISHOP RICHARD MOTH appointed ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER**

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has been 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.



## **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 5 Jan – 11 Jan**

Mrs Nott, Mrs Turpin, Kenneth Storan, William O'Driscoll, Charles Brightwell, Gregory Shiu-Chow Fung, Canon John Bloomfield, George Teager, Michael Regan, Mrs F H Biss, Charles Booker, Anne Morton, Gertrude Thwaites, Arthur Stritch, Jenny Glynn and Mrs McSweeney.

## **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 Leo: Prayer Intention for January**

## **For prayer with the Word of God:**

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

## **Special Request - Pray together for**

## **peace:**

Let us all pray together for peace: first, among nations bloodied by conflict and suffering, but also within our homes, in families wounded by violence or pain. Certain that Christ, our hope, is the sun of justice that never sets, let us confidently implore the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 226. Thank you very much for the collection for last weekend also the Christmas collection and your standing orders for Nov.

## **St Anne Line Catholic Church**

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## **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/>

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.

