

# 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 Celestine Onwuekwe

Deacon: Rev Alan Mair



vol. 59 no. 2 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Baptism of the Lord— Year A

## *Message of the week*

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a close and opens the door to Jesus' public ministry. At the Jordan River, we witness a profound moment of revelation: Jesus steps into the waters, the heavens are torn open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of the Father proclaims, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." In this single scene, we are given a glimpse of the mystery of God—Father, Son, and Spirit—active and present in the world.

Although Jesus is without sin, he chooses to be baptized alongside those seeking repentance. This powerful act of humility shows us the depth of God's love and solidarity with humanity. Christ does not remain distant or removed from our struggles; instead, he enters fully into the human condition. By stepping into the Jordan, Jesus sanctifies the waters of baptism and transforms them into a source of new life, healing, and grace for all who follow him.

The Baptism of the Lord also marks a turning point in Jesus' life. Until now, he has lived quietly in Nazareth. After this moment, he begins his mission of teaching, preaching, healing, and restoring hope to the broken-hearted. Strengthened by the Spirit and affirmed by the Father's love, Jesus sets out to proclaim the Kingdom of God—a kingdom rooted not in power or prestige, but in mercy, justice, and self-giving love.

This feast invites us to reflect deeply on our own baptism. Through the waters of baptism, we were claimed by God, washed clean, and welcomed into the family of faith. We, too, have heard God's promise spoken over our lives: that we are beloved sons and daughters, called to live as disciples of Christ. Baptism is not merely a moment from the past, but a living reality that shapes who we are and how we are called to live each day.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, may we renew our baptismal promises and open our hearts once again to the movement of the Holy Spirit. May we listen attentively for God's voice in our lives and respond with courage and trust. Strengthened by the knowledge that we are loved and chosen, may we go forth to reflect Christ's light in our families, our parish, and our world—living out our faith through compassion, service, and unwavering hope.

*Rev Alan*

### PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

**Coffee Morning** on Sunday 11 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 10<sup>th</sup> Jan– 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

Saturday 10th -Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am NO HOLY MASS

6.30pm Anne Morton (anniv)

Sunday 11th *Baptism of the Lord*

9.30am People of the Parish

11am

Dominic & Elijah Thanksgiving

Monday 12th (celebrated privately)

Holy Souls

Tuesday 13th

9.30am Bob & Anne Power RIP

Wednesday 14th

9.30am Catalin Constantin Bot (anniv)

Thursday 15th

9.30am Mary Lynch RIP

Friday 16th

9.30am Balint family Ints

Saturday 17th -Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Ros Matthews Ints

6.30pm Atal/Singh family Ints

Sunday 18th *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

9.30am People of the Parish

11am

Luciano Pesci RIP

Confession is after weekday morning Mass from Tuesday to Saturday and by appointment.

From Tuesday to Friday

Morning prayer

9.20am

Holy Rosary

10am

HOLY HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursday

10-11am

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

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

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING

For all altar servers on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 4pm in the hall.

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

## **WELCOME COFFEE MORNING THIS SUNDAY 11 JANUARY**

There will be a coffee morning in the hall after the 9.30am and 11am Masses to welcome Fr Celestine. All parishioners are invited. Do come along!

## **HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION**

This will be on every Thursday from 10am to 11am.

## **ST ANNE LINE FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2026**

**INTERNATIONAL BRING A DISH & SHARE A MEAL NIGHT** to celebrate our Feast Day.

Bring a hot or cold national dish to share with others after the 6.30pm Mass. Contact Tina Marrai on 07941 227 743 if you are attending and can help with setting up the hall and clearing up after the event.

## **CRIB OFFERINGS**

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.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Restarts on Sunday 11 January at 3pm in the hall.

## **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

## **RETIRING COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY**

For Pax Christi. The work of Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form.

## **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.

## **THANK YOU FROM FR BARTO**

For the farewell afternoon tea last Saturday. I was touched to see so many of you there and I thank you all for your kindness and support these past 5 years.

## **BCCS AFTERNOON TEA**

The Brentwood Catholic Children Society is delighted to kick off the year with an invitation to Afternoon Tea. Hosted in the opulent surroundings of the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026 (13:30-15:30). Set in the elegant ballroom of this prestigious venue, this fundraising event promises an experience of true luxury. Tickets are £35 per person - for more information or to book your place search <http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> or contact Julie (jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912277413).

## **ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP**

If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

## **SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE (18-25 JULY 2026)**

Applications are open online for this years' Lourdes pilgrimage for those in year 10 and above. You can find all information and the link to apply at <http://www.bcys.net/events/sl26>. There is funding available for which we can provide advice and support.

## **RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA. (19 – 23 JANUARY 2026)**

Later this month our diocese will host the relics of St Gerard Majella at four locations (see poster in the porch for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint.

## **DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS (COLLECTED FOR THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS)**

Please see list of items needed in the porch.



## **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 12 Jan – 18 Jan**

Ethel Bush, Doris Poulain, George Mokrzycki, May Florence Bocking, John Bourk, Giselle Zagon, Molly Scrutton, William and Lucy Brady, Michael Watling, Elizabeth Taylor, Mary Blackman, Emma Aguilar, E Stephenson, John M Brown, B Langhey, Mr Bennett, Gerald Fitzgerald, Neilson Thomas Mcleod, John Doherty, Joseph Fahy.

## **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.

## **FR CELESTINE'S CONTACT DETAILS**

Email: [celestineiheme2016@gmail.com](mailto:celestineiheme2016@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07440 394 171

## **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.

Last weekend Mass attendance was 286. Thank you very much for your collection offerings for last weekend. Also for 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.

