

# 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



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18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A

## *Message of the week*

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." With this single statement, John reveals the heart of who Jesus is and what he has come to do. Jesus is not merely a moral teacher or another prophet—he is the Lamb, the one who will offer himself to free the world from sin.

For John's listeners, the image of the lamb carried deep meaning. It recalled the Passover lamb whose blood saved Israel from death, the lambs sacrificed daily in the Temple, and the suffering servant spoken of by Isaiah. By calling Jesus the Lamb of God, John proclaims that all these hopes and sacrifices are fulfilled in him. Jesus will save not through force or domination, but through obedience, humility, and self-giving love.

John also makes a striking confession: "I did not know him." Though he knew Jesus personally, John insists that his recognition of the Messiah comes not from human closeness or personal certainty, but from God's revelation. He recognizes Jesus because he sees the Spirit descend and remain upon him. This detail is crucial. In the Scriptures, the Spirit often comes temporarily upon individuals, but in Jesus the Spirit remains. Jesus lives in complete communion with the Father and is the one who will pour out the Spirit upon others.

John's role, then, is not to draw attention to himself, but to bear witness. He says, "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." True discipleship looks like this: knowing when to step aside so that Christ may be seen more clearly. John teaches us that our mission is not to be the centre, but to point others toward the one who saves.

This Gospel also speaks directly to our worship. At every Mass, just before Communion, we hear John's words again: "Behold the Lamb of God." They are an invitation to look at Jesus with faith and humility, recognizing him as the one who takes away our sin and gives us new life.

Today we are asked the same question John poses by his witness: Do we truly recognize Jesus for who he is? And are we willing, by our words and our lives, to point others to him? May we open our hearts to the Spirit who remains and learn to behold the Lamb of God with deeper faith and love.

## *Rev Alan*

### PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Youth SVP group Laser Quest on 24th January at 1:30pm. See posters or contact Jacinta

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

Afternoon Club will meet on 28 January from 2-4pm in the hall

Coffee Morning on Sunday 8 February 2026 after the 9.30am and 11am Masses

Table tennis. On Friday 3-5pm. Contact Liz on 07403 649306.

### Mass Intentions 17<sup>th</sup> Jan– 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

#### 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

#### Monday 19th (celebrated privately)

#### Holy Souls

#### Tuesday 20th

9.30am Amiceto Illuminada

#### Wednesday 21st

9.30am Bob & Anne Power RIP

#### Thursday 22nd

9.30am Mary Lynch RIP

#### Friday 23rd

9.30am Anthony Koh RIP

#### Saturday 24th -Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Fr Jim Lynch RIP

6.30pm Morton family Ints

#### Sunday 25th 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Eliseo Calle RIP

11am People of the Parish

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.

## **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 6.3pm 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.

## **RETIRING COLLECTION THIS 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.

## **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.

## **BEWARE – SCAM EMAILS**

Please be aware if receive emails from Fr Celestine or Rev Alan. These could be a scam!

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Next session on Sunday 25 January at 3pm in the hall.

## **PALM CROSSES**

Please bring in the palm crosses from last year so we may burn them for Ash Wednesday. Please place them in the container at the back of Church.

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

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

## **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.

## **DIOCESAN 2026 DIRECTORY**

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

## **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). 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](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk) or 07912277413).

## **WORLD LEPROSY DAY – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

which aims to raise awareness of a disease that many people think no longer exists. Each year, 200,000 people are diagnosed with leprosy and there are millions more who are living with the damaging consequences of delayed leprosy treatment because of the stigma that still surrounds the disease. St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG), which is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity, has been caring for people with leprosy for 130 years. Our aim is to find and treat people with leprosy before they develop disabilities. Please consider supporting this vital work and keep people affected by leprosy in your prayers. [www.stfrancisleprosy.org](http://www.stfrancisleprosy.org).

## **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.

## **VACANCIES**

### **Trinity School**

- Teacher of Geography, Full time, Permanent, ASAP or Easter 2026
- DT Technician, Part Time, Permanent, ASAP
- Teacher of Spanish, Part Time, Permanent, ASAP or Easter 2026

Last weekend Mass attendance was 286. Thank you very much for the collection for last weekend and. Standing orders for December..

## **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/>



## **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 19 Jan – 25 Jan**

John F Johnson, Clotilda Mary Stewart, Francesco Daoud, Richard Taplin, Maria Dennett, Irene Nazareth, Bishop Bernard Ward, Charles Bennett, Ruby Chapman, Lucretia Silvestre, Michael Regan, Edward Mayo, Robert Burton, Patrick Kenny, Mr Wong, Michael O'Brien, Edward Hampson, Michael Hanley, Bishop Arthur Doubleday, Richard Fitzgerald, Dorothy Kemp, Anastasia Joy, Dr J McEnery and Kenneth Shrimpton. .

**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.

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.

