

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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1st February 2026

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A

Message of the week

When Jesus sees the crowds in today's Gospel, He goes up the mountain and sits down. That detail matters. In Scripture, mountains are places where God speaks—Sinai, Carmel, Zion. By sitting down, Jesus takes the posture of a teacher with authority. What He is about to say is not a suggestion or a poetic reflection; it is a revelation of God's heart.

He refers to those people we don't usually call "blessed." We tend to associate blessing with success, comfort, strength, and control. But Jesus looks at the world differently. He looks at people not through the lens of power, but through the lens of love.

The word "blessed" can also be translated as happy or fortunate. But Jesus is not talking about a shallow happiness that depends on circumstances. He is describing a deep, enduring joy that comes from living in right relationship with God.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."

This does not mean blessed are those who lack ambition or confidence. It means blessed are those who know they need God. The poor in spirit do not pretend to be self-sufficient. They pray honestly. They trust humbly. They know that everything is a gift.

"Blessed are those who mourn."

Jesus does not glorify suffering, but He promises that sorrow is not the end of the story. Those who mourn—over loss, over injustice, over sin—are not forgotten by God. Their tears matter. God draws especially close to the broken-hearted.

"Blessed are the meek."

Meekness is not weakness. It is strength under control. The meek refuse to dominate or crush others. They choose patience over aggression, forgiveness over revenge. In a loud and angry world, meekness is a quiet but powerful witness.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

This is a deep longing—not just to be comfortable, but to be faithful; not just to get ahead, but to do what is right. Jesus promises that this hunger will be satisfied, even when justice seems slow or incomplete.

The Beatitudes are not a checklist for earning God's love. They are a portrait of Jesus Himself. He is poor in spirit, completely dependent on the Father. He mourns over Jerusalem. He is meek and humble of heart. He hungers and thirsts to do the Father's will. To live the Beatitudes is to live like Christ.

So today, the Gospel invites us not to chase the world's idea of happiness, but to trust Jesus' way. It invites us to believe that God is closest not to the powerful and the proud, but to the humble, the grieving, the gentle, and the faithful. May we have the courage to live these words, and the faith to believe that in God's kingdom, what looks like loss may in fact be blessing.

Rev Alan

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Club will meet on **11 February** from 2-4pm in the hall

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

Youth SVP group will meet in the hall on Saturday 14th February at 4.45pm

Bingo afternoon on 21 February at 3pm in the hall

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

Mass Intentions 31st Jan– 8th Feb 2026

Saturday 31st -Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Fr Derek Lance RIP

6.30pm Bob & Anne Power RIP

Sunday 1st 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am People of the Parish

11am Tricia (Thanksgiving)

Monday 2nd Presentation of the Lord

9.30am Francis Atal Ints

Tuesday 3rd St Anne Line

9.30am Maria & Anna Lee Ints

Wednesday 4th

9.30am Holy Souls

Thursday 5th

9.30am Mary Lynch RIP

Friday 6th

9.30am Holy Souls

Saturday 7th-Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Fr Celestine Ints

6.30pm Bob & Anne Power RIP

Sunday 8th 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Cath Mair 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

The meeting on **Thursday 29 January 2026** was cancelled at the last minute. The date of the next meeting is to be agreed.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Tuesday 17th February at 7.30pm in the hall.

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

CAN YOU HELP?

Fr Celestine would like parishioners to help in the sacristy. Please speak to him if you can help.

CANDLEMAS MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Please bring along candles if you would like them blessed. Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am

ST BLAISE & ST ANNE LINE – TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Morning Mass will be at 9.30am with blessing of throats.

RETIRING COLLECTION

Next weekend is for the Brentwood Lourdes Sick Pilgrimage fund to defray expenses for sick pilgrims who otherwise would not be able to make the pilgrimage.

SACRED HEART NOVENA

Next First Friday Novena starts is on **6 February 2026**. Rosary and confessions after morning Mass.

SATURDAY DEVOTIONS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Next First Saturday devotion on **7 February 2026** starts at 6pm with the Rosary .

CRIB OFFERINGS

This is the last weekend 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.

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.

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.

LENT 2026 BIBLE STUDIES, a FREE, six-week journey presented LIVE ONLINE

INFO & REGISTRATION: comeandsee.org/len26

6 Tuesday Sessions: TIME: 7pm - 8:15pm UK time

Tues 17 Feb | Tues 24 Feb | Tues 03 Mar

Tues 10 Mar | Tues 17 Mar | Tues 24 Mar

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM– 23rd May 2026:

Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you are interested in going, please can you contact the office.

FLAME 2027 for Years 10–13 (ages 15–18).

takes place on Saturday 6th March 2027, 11am - 6pm, at Wembley Arena, built around the theme "Take Courage, I have overcome the World". Tickets are expected to be in high demand. BCYS will purchase a block of early-bird tickets (£30 each, saving £8) so groups can sit together in a prime area near the front. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

To confirm your booking, we'll ask for a £10 deposit per ticket at this stage. Please complete the ticket request form by 30th January 2026. <https://forms.office.com/e/KTevSZwGQH>

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 or 07912277413).

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.

DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS (COLLECTED FOR THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS)

Please see list of items needed in the porch.

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Vacancy - Exam Invigilator, Seasonal, £15.19 per hour. To start March/April.

Application form on <https://www.tchs.org.uk/about-us/employment/>

Last weekend Mass attendance was 254. Thank you very much for the collection for last weekend and your standing orders for Dec.

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/>



Pope Leo - Dilexit Te

First encyclical from Pope Leo - check our web page

<https://saintanneline.com/blog-2/>

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 2 Feb - 8 Feb

Emily German, Michael Linane, Lucel Tate, Mary Geddes, Margaret Murphy, Mary Lenihan, Anne Gatheridge, Maurice Leahy, Clare Teresa Anderson, Anne Brinklow, Christopher Winberg, Mr Boyle, Ann Halsall, James Fitzgerald, Charles Edward Deighton, Harry Dennehy, Winifred Galpin, Quido Mitlehener, Mr Peever, Martin Burke, John Smith, Harry Quinn, Margaret Sledmere and Michael Moore.

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

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.

