

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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15th February 2026

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time— Year A

Message of the week

In today's Gospel, Jesus says something that might surprise us: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets." Many people think Christianity is about replacing rules with freedom, law with love. But Jesus tells us something deeper: **He doesn't erase the law — He fulfils it.** And then He raises the bar.

Six times in today's Gospel we hear the same pattern:

"You have heard it said... but I say to you."

Jesus moves faith from the level of **external behaviour** to the level of the **heart**. It's no longer just about what we do — it's about who we are becoming.

Take anger. The law says, "You shall not kill."

Jesus says unresolved anger, contempt, and hatred already wound the other person — and ourselves. The issue isn't just murder; it's

relationships broken by pride, resentment, and refusal to reconcile.

Then Jesus speaks about adultery. Again, He goes deeper. It's not only about actions but about **how we see others** — whether we reduce them to objects or honour them as persons made in God's image. This can feel overwhelming. Jesus' words are demanding. But they aren't meant to crush us — they're meant to **heal us**. God doesn't want mere compliance; God wants **conversion**.

The first reading from Sirach reminds us that God gives us real freedom. We are not puppets. We are capable of choosing life or death, good or evil. Love is only real if it is chosen, and holiness only matters if it comes from within.

Saint Paul adds another layer. He tells us that God's wisdom isn't the wisdom of the world. The world says: "Do the minimum. Protect yourself. Win at all costs."

Jesus says: "Reconcile. Forgive. Be faithful. Choose integrity even when it's hard."

This Gospel confronts us with an important truth: **sin begins long before the action**. It begins in the heart — in our thoughts, habits, and hidden attitudes. That's why Jesus insists on honesty within. You can't build a holy life on a divided heart.

But here's the good news: Jesus never asks us to do this alone. He gives us His Spirit to change our hearts from the inside out. The goal isn't perfection — it's **direction**. Are we moving toward love, truth, and reconciliation? So, this week, maybe the question isn't:

"What rules am I breaking?" but rather: *"What is shaping my heart?"*

Where do I need to seek reconciliation? What resentment am I holding onto? Where is God inviting me to choose integrity over convenience?

Jesus fulfils the law not by making it heavier, but by making it **life-giving**. When love becomes our motive, obedience becomes freedom.

Rev Alan

PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS

Bingo afternoon on 21 February at 3pm in the hall

Afternoon Club will meet on 25 February from 2-4pm in the hall.

Coffee Morning on Sunday 8 March after 9.30am and 11am Masses

Quiz night – Sat 21 March, 7.30pm. £12 per person. Forms are in the porch and see details on the poster in the porch.

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

Mass Intentions 14th Feb – 22nd Feb 2026

Saturday 14th–Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Celebrant's Ints

6.30pm Atal/Singh family Ints

Sunday 15th 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am People of the Parish

11am Tricia (health recovery)

Monday 16th (Mass is celebrated privately)

Holy Souls

Tuesday 17th

9.30am Balchin family (In Thanksgiving)

Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday

9.30am Sisters Patricia & Immaculata Ints

7pm People of the Parish

Thursday 19th

9.30am Holy Souls

Friday 20th

9.30am Chinelo Juanelle John (In Thanksgiving)

Saturday 21st–Sunday Vigil Mass

9.30am Celebrant's Ints

6.30pm Rose Cotter (anniv)

Sunday 22nd 1st Sunday in Lent

9.30am People of the Parish

11am Rita 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 at 10am in the parish hall. Come along and find out more.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY- TERM TIME ONLY

We will be trying out from 1 March, alternating Children's Liturgy between the 9.30am and 11 am Masses. The dates and mass times are as follows:-

Sunday 1st March - 9.30am

Sunday 8th March - 11.00am

Sunday 15th March - 9.30am

Sunday 22nd March - 11.00am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday after the 9.30am Mass and Friday evenings at 6pm.

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING

The next date for all altar servers is **Sunday 22 February** at 4pm in the hall. Parents are invited to come along.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On Tuesday 17 February at 7.30pm in the hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026

It is a day of Fasting & Abstinence. Masses are at 9.30am, 7pm with imposition of ashes.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)- 14/15 FEBRUARY

As in previous years, the Lenten alms will be for Aid to the Church in Need. This weekend there will be an appeal on behalf ACN given by Eileen Murray, Community Fundraiser for the Archdiocese of Westminster for the Lenten Red Fire extinguisher Appeal. The appeal will focus on projects in the Holy Land and Nigeria. There will also be a trade stall selling items after all Masses. If you wish to get involved in the work of ACN, please contact Eileen - 07939362478. Email: eileen.murray@acnuk.org or go to www.acnuk.org

LENTE ALMS & INTENTIONS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY

Pieces of paper are available at the back of the Church to be placed in the basket at the Sanctuary for our Lenten intentions. We will be donating our Lenten Alms to 'Aid to the Church in Need' for its various projects in the poorest areas. The red fire extinguisher will be used for the collections.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

If you would like to be received into the Church and become a Catholic, please speak to Fr Celestine.

ST ANNE LINE YOUTH SVP GROUP

On Sunday 8th March — there will be Lenten Redbridge Food Bank Collection. Food collection for the local food bank & Coffee morning and Cake sale in the hall after Sunday masses. For further details contact jacinta.balchin@tintabee.co.uk

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

CONFIRMATION

The next session is **Friday 27th February** 5:15 – 6:45pm in the Parish hall. Session 6: The power and purpose of the sacraments.

HELP NEEDED

Volunteers who can help with clearing/weeding and general maintenance of the two flower beds from March. Please contact Tina Marrai 07941 227 743

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.

CARITAS BRENTWOOD NETWORKING DAY Saturday, Mar 7 from 1- 5 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes The afternoon will include dedicated time to reflect on our areas of focus (homelessness, refugees, and the environment) and to consider how we might collectively respond to the needs in these areas during 2026. **Registration and attendance are free and can be completed online at:** <https://DOB-NETWORK.eventbrite.co.uk>

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

INFO & REGISTRATION: comeandsee.org/lent26

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

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026: Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall

The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?" This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

Talk 1. Wednesday 25th February. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. "I Believe..." Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith. 7.30pm

Talk 2. Wednesday 4th March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints. 7.30pm.

Talk 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

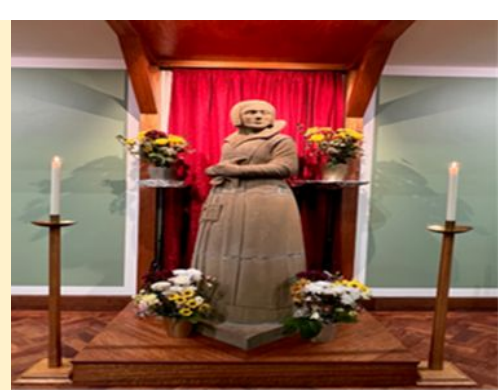
Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm

"AWAKE LONDON" Saturday 21st February 2026 from 12.45 pm to 4.45 pm

A Catholic Bible convention and Healing ministry led by Rev.Fr.Gerry Ezekwere CMF and Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry UK at Catholic Parish of Christ The King, 455 Chingford Road London,E4 8SP. Convention includes: Praise and Worship, Holy Mass, confession, Healing service and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual sharing, sessions for children (www.afcmuk.org).

DONATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS (COLLECTED FOR THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS)

Last weekend Mass attendance was 244. Thank you very much for the collection for last weekend, also the collection for Lourdes Sick & Helpers Fund and your. Standing orders for January..



First encyclical from Pope Leo - click link
<https://saintanneline.com/blog-2/>

Please pray for those who are sick

Anniversaries 16 Feb - 22 Feb

Daniel De Lary, Mrs M Collins, Ronald Geddes, Robert Llewellyn, Marcus Bernard, Fr John Joyce, William Doran, Mrs Flower, James Farrell, Joseph Swales, Fr Thomas O'Connor, Fr Archibald O'Brien, Michael Joseph Smyth, Mary Geddes, Jean Hawkins, Ethel Millar, Margaret Bryan, Violet Lilian Walker, Dr Vernon Marks Christopher Spencer, Miss M Robertson, Francis L Thompson, Ellen Connolly, Olive Canning, Ellen Dodsworth, Gordon McHenry, Pam Jones.

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's Prayer Intention for February

**For children with incurable diseases:
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.**

Lent begins next Wednesday Looking ahead to the beginning of Lent, Pope Leo described it as a time to deepen our knowledge and our love of the Lord, to examine our hearts and our lives. (see [Vatican News](#))

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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/>

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.

