



St Anne and Joachim

The tradition that Anne and Joachim were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary comes from the First Gospel of James written in the 2nd Century AD. Anne is the Patron Saint of Canada and of women in labour.

The story of the elderly couple being told they would have a child is very similar to the story of Samuel's parents Hannah and Elkanah as found in 1 Samuel 1.

In the Orthodox tradition, Anne and Joachim are usually portrayed together. Anne is clothed in green and red. Green is the colour of natural living things: it is the colour of youth, flowering hope and eternal renovation. Red is the colour of divinity.

Joachim is clothed in blue and red. Blue is the colour of the infiniteness of the sky – the symbol of another, everlasting world.

When the Revd Joseph Brown built a new Church at Leigh Beck, Canvey Island in 1910, it was soon decided to dedicate it to St Anne.

A prayer of Joachim and Anna

May the risen Christ, our true God,
With the prayers of his pure and holy Mother,
The power of the precious and life-giving Cross,
The protection of the spiritual powers of Heaven,
The holy and righteous ancestors Joachim and Anna,
And all the saints whose memory we celebrate
Have mercy on us and save us". Amen.