



**Priory Church of Our Lady and St Michael, Abergavenny**  
**Eglwys y Priordy Ein Harglwyddes a Mihangel Sant, y Fenni**  
 Parish Priest: Father Matthew Carney OSB ☎ (01873) 851051 Mobile: 07402 979597  
 The Presbytery, 10 Pen Y Pound, ABERGAVENNY NP7 5UD  
 Email: [fr.matthew@live.co.uk](mailto:fr.matthew@live.co.uk) or [matthew.carney@rcadc.org](mailto:matthew.carney@rcadc.org)  
 Website: [www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk](http://www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch)  
 St Michael's Centre ☎ (01873) 857750  
 Our Lady and St. Michael's School ☎ (01873) 735080  
 Deacon: Rev Dr Andreas Erhardt ☎ (01873) 855078  
 Safeguarding reps: William & Evelyn Duggan ☎ (07581) 168719.  
 Dial-a-Mass Service ☎ (01873) 777190  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of the Lord.**



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**All Church services live streamed at**

[www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk](http://www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk)

**If you do not wish to appear in the livestream broadcast do not sit in the front 3 rows of the Church. For Holy Communion if you do not wish to appear on the livestream please see Fr. Matthew before mass.**

**Evening Prayer at 5pm on**

[www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch)

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January –**

9.30am Rosary for Life.

**10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – For Life.**

10.45am – Confessions, exposition and Benediction.

**5.00pm Mass in Llanarth Church – J. & M. Oswell & Peter Cunningham Davies RIP.**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of the Lord.**

**\*8.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Sick of the Parish.**

(9.00am 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion session in Centre,)

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Nicola Robinson RIP.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**\*6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – Robin Herbert RIP.**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January – St. Aelred of Rievaulx.**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Jean Bland RIP**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January – St. Hiliary.**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – People of the Parish.**

(Year 6 Class Mass.)

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January –**

**\*10.30am Mass in Llanarth Church – Peter Cunningham Davies RIP.** 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

5.30pm Bible Group.

7.30pm Churches Together Meeting – Methodist Church.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January –**

**\*12.00noon Mass in OLSM Church- Val Short & Family.**

1.00pm Lunch Club. 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January.**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Chris Phelan RIP.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

6.00pm Faith Group.

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January – St. Antony.**

9.30am Rosary for Life.

**10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – For Life.**

10.45am – Confessions, exposition and Benediction.

**5.00pm Mass in Llanarth Church – Peter Cunningham Davies RIP**

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

**PEACE SUNDAY & ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL FOR SPUC.**

**\*8.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Sick of the Parish.**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – People of the Parish.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**\*6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – Luigi Cavalli, Albina Cavalli, Giovanna Cavalli RIP.**

### Mass Reflection:

Jesus presents himself for baptism in today's Gospel not because He is a sinner, but to fulfill the word of God proclaimed by His prophets. He must be baptized to reveal that He is the Christ ("anointed one")—the Spirit-endowed Servant promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading. His baptism marks the start of a new world, a new creation. As Isaiah prophesied, the Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove—as the Spirit hovered over the face of the deep in the beginning (see Genesis 1:2). As it was in the beginning, at the Jordan also the majestic voice of the Lord thunders above the waters. The Father opens the heavens and declares Jesus to be His "beloved son." God had long prepared the Israelites for His coming, as Peter preaches in today's Second Reading. Jesus was anticipated in the "beloved son" given to Abraham (see Genesis 22:2, 12, 26), and in the calling of Israel as His "first-born son" (see Exodus 4:22–23). Jesus is the divine son begotten by God, the everlasting heir promised to King David (see Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14). He is "a covenant of the people [Israel]" and "a light to the nations," Isaiah says. By the new covenant made in His blood (see 1 Corinthians 11:25), God has gathered the lost sheep of Israel together with whoever fears Him in every nation. Christ has become the source from which God pours out His Spirit on Israelites and Gentiles alike (see Acts 10:45). In Baptism, all are anointed with that same Spirit, made beloved sons and daughters of God. Indeed, we are Christians—literally "anointed ones." We are the "sons of God" in today's Psalm—called to give glory to His name in His temple. Let us pray that we remain faithful to our calling as His children, that our Father might call us what he calls His Son—"my beloved . . . in whom I am well pleased."

### Collection totals for Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January.

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	£133.18
Gift Aid	£155.00
Crib Offerings - Total	£578.86
Automated credits (November 2025)	£3536.33
Contactless Card Reader	£115.00

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – If you would like to a set of Offertory Envelopes, let Fr. Matthew or Colin Prosser know.**

**CONTACTLESS CARD READER now available in Church. Thank you to all parishioners who now make direct bank payments to the parish. Please do consider doing this. Our bank details are: NatWest – Belmont Abbey Mission CIO - Our Lady & St. Michael's No. 1 Account no. 60708778 Bank Sort Code: 53-50-41.**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Christian Meditation Group – The meditation group continues on most Monday's, at 11am, info from Deirdre on 07789 404041.**

**BELMONT ABBEY - All services livestreamed from Belmont Abbey [belmontabbey.org.uk/online-streaming](http://belmontabbey.org.uk/online-streaming)**

**ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB – Come and join us for painting, knitting and natter and all kind of craft activities – Fridays after the morning mass in the centre. Tea and coffee provided for a small donation.**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. Runs from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January, details of services overleaf.**

**CRIB OFFERINGS – Thankyou for your donations for Crib Offerings, well over £550 has been given so far.**

**BIBLE GROUP - Next meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm. Email Fr. Matthew for the invite.**

**ABERGAVENNY FOODBANK** - The donation point for Abergavenny Foodbank is in the church porch. Your continued support by donating items to the food bank is appreciated although they will not be taking any donations until 6th January: so please do not bring any donations to church until the weekend of 3/4th January. for more info visit: <https://abergavenny.foodbank.org.uk>

**PARISH COUNCIL** – The next Parish Council takes place Sunday 1st February at 11.45am in the centre. **PAC MINUTES** – Minutes of the October and the December PAC meeting on the website and on the notice board.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**, meets next on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 6m in the Presbytery.

**PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH** – Every Saturday morning (10.45am), we have Exposition and Benediction for the intentions of growing our parish and reaching out to those no longer in Church. This is supported by chants and hymns.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** - We tackle poverty in all its forms by providing assistance to people in need. Many thanks with your help with our recent campaigns to help those in need in the community. The hospital nightwear collection has stopped for the time being. New members always welcome to join us our quest to fight poverty in our community. For further information on SVP visit: <https://www.svp.org.uk> contact: president050512@svp.org.uk, or Fr Matthew.

**CATENIAN ASSOCIATION** If you are interested in joining us contact Jim Cronin 01873 854498 or [jimcronin1@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcronin1@hotmail.com)

**EVANGELISATION GROUP** – Meets next Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm, beginning in Church with exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament-parishioners are very welcome to join us for this time of prayer.

**APPLICATIONS TO OLSM SCHOOL.** If your child's date of birth is between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, they are eligible to start reception in Sept 2026. The admissions process for that date has already started. Closing Date for applications 15<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm. Offer date 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Please complete and return the application form prior to the published date, as failing to do so will reduce the chances of you obtaining a place in the school. Application forms available from school reception.

**LEPRA APPEAL** – We are holding an appeal to support the work of Leprosy on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Leprosy works to support the many victims of leprosy in our world.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** – From Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Weekday services take place at 12noon as follows, Monday Baptist Church, Tuesday, Methodist, Wednesday Salvation Army, Thursday URC and Friday St. Teilos, with the main service on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm in St. Mary's Priory.

**SAFEGUARDING** Parishioners are reminded that if they have any safeguarding concerns, regarding the care of children, young people or vulnerable adults they should contact our safeguarding reps - Willie and Evelyn Duggan on (07581) 168719 or Fr. Matthew.

**ARCH (ABORTION RECOVERY CARE HELPLINE)** Struggling after abortion? You are not alone. Give us a call - ARCH (Abortion Recovery Care Helpline): 0345 603 8501 [info@archtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@archtrust.org.uk)

**Life Charity** Pregnancy matters. Need to talk? Call free 0808 802 5433 - we are here to listen. **SPUC – RIGHT TO LIFE** For updates on the fight to protect unborn life and life nearing its end, sign up for updates from SPUC and/or RIGHT TO LIFE at: <https://righttolife.org.uk/> <https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

**FAITH GROUP** - meeting again on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.

**SYRO – MALIBAR RITE MASS** – To be celebrated monthly in our parish. Next mass TBC.

**GRANGE HOSPITAL – The Catholic Chaplain to the Grange Hospital is Fr. Peter McClaren, available on 07561 469343.**

**CARDIFF HEATH HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY** – 029 2184 3230

**CONFIRMATION COURSE** - will begin early next year, dates TBC. Candidates need to be in year 8 or above. **The Confirmation has now been confirmed as Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 10am.**

**OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE IN WALES - Stand for Dignity and True Compassion in Wales** – Please go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/oppose-assisted-suicide-in-wales/> for info on how to contact members of the Senedd. Link is also on our parish facebook page.

**1<sup>st</sup> HOLY COMMUNION COURSE** – 7 Children have been enrolled on the course, next session of preparation this Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 9am in the centre.

**HEREFORD PARISH- ROME PILGRIMAGE. Open Invitation to SFX Parish Pilgrimage to Rome. Monday 5<sup>th</sup>—Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026 5 days/4 nights.**

Cost: £1,029 pp. half board; Coach return fare to Heathrow is extra. Travel insurance included. **Booking forms available from SFX office STOP PRESS! There will be a meeting for all who have signed up for the Rome pilgrimage AND anyone who would like to find out more.**

Peter Fawcett will be giving a presentation with PowerPoint after the 10 am Mass on Sunday, 11th January at 11.30 am. Come along and find out more!

**7 CORNERS CENTRE** in Abergavenny is advertising Youth Worker posts. If anyone may be interested contact Fr. Matthew who will forward the info directly.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND OF OUR PARISH:** Eileen Nuttall, Chris Woodhouse, Mario Malnati, Kris Williams, Tom and Eileen Thompson, Mervyn Elias, John and Muriel Brand, Joan Stone, Sarah Louise Coleman, Mary Jones, Michael Keohane, Keith Taylor, Jeremy Proctor, John and Michael Hargaden, Chris and Tracy Shaw, David Johnstone, Maria Tedesco, Elizabeth Coopey, Brigid Malnati, Chris O'Connell, Ann Green, Winnie and Stan Herbert. **Please also pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently – Peter Cunningham Davies, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

**OLSM SCHOOL RELIGIOUS INSPECTION** – Our parish school recently underwent its Religious RE inspection by the Archdiocese. The school was judged Good overall, and Good in all 3 inspection areas, Collective Worship, Catholic Life and Mission and RE education.

**ARCHDIOCESAN YEARBOOKS FOR 2026** – Available on the Piety Stall-£6.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED** – Has written to thank us for the donation of £175- the collection taken at our Red Wednesday service – the day of prayer for the persecuted Church.

**GUNTHER HOUSE** – The Gunther House trust was recently awarded a £3 million grant by the lottery for the restoration of the building. The museum and building are now closed while the works take place. Hopefully to be completed by 2027.

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY** – Thanks to all those who donated nightwear and items for hospital patients, no more are needed.

**SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL** – The annual White Flower Appeal in aid SPUC- the Society for the protection of the Unborn Child, takes place next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January. Our financial support helps them keep up the fight for the protection of life, especially to oppose the efforts to further liberalise abortion and to oppose the efforts to introduce assisted dying/suicide. Postcards and stickers to be distributed at all masses.

**PEACE SUNDAY.** Next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, the Bishops of England and Wales invite us to keep as a day of prayer for world peace, and to pray for the work of the Catholic Peace Group – Pax Christi. Pope Leo has chosen the theme: *Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace.* This is a daunting goal in the light of the widespread belief that we must be armed, even with nuclear weapons, to protect ourselves. Both Pope Leo and a recent statement from our own Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (*Called to be Peacemakers*) indicate that peace should not rely on fear, threats or weapons. Peace should have the capacity to resolve conflicts and open hearts through mutual understanding and hope. The phrase 'Peace be with you' is an integral part of our Liturgy in each Mass. We are all invited to be peacemakers.

**PETER CUNNINGHAM DAVIES RIP** – Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Cunningham Davies who died last Sunday. May he rest in peace.