



Priory Church of Our Lady and St Michael, Abergavenny
 Eglwys y Priordy Ein Harglwyddes a Mihangel Sant, y Fenni
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 The Presbytery, 10 Pen Y Pound, ABERGAVENNY NP7 5UD
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 Facebook: 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 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent.



Saturday 13th December – Sunday 21st December 2025.

YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025.

“Pilgrims of Hope.”

All Church services live streamed at

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

Saturday, 13th December – St. Lucy. 9.30am Rosary for Life.

10.30 Confessions and Exposition.

12.15pm Mass in OLSM Church – Mary Josephine Lay RIP.

(Archbishop Mark O'Toole.) 3.30pm Exposition & Benediction.

5.00pm Mass in Llanarth Church – Lynn RIP.

Sunday 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent.

GAUDATE SUNDAY. (Collection for Xmas Flowers.)

***8.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Frances Reidy RIP.**

***10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Charles Dorian Evans RIP, Daniel McGill RIP,**

Followed by Parish Christmas Lunch.

***6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – Ollie Gooney RIP, Domenico Cavalli/Giovanna Cavalli, Guido Flugoni RIP.**

Monday 15th December –

***10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Alan Ockenden RIP.**

7.00pm Parish Penitential Service in OLSM Church.

Tuesday, 16th December.

***10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Derrick Matthews RIP.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

6.00pm Evangelisation Group.

Wednesday 17th December –

10.00am Full School Mass in OLSM Church

(No Mass in Llanarth today.)

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook. 5.30pm Bible Group.

Thursday, 18th December –

No mass today.

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

7.00pm Llanarth Parish Carol Service – Llanarth Church.

Friday, 19th December – .

10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Sick of the Parish

6.00pm - Faith Group. 7.00pm Parish Youth Christmas Party.

Saturday, 20th December –

9.30am Rosary for Life.

10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Hodges Family.

10.30 Confessions, Exposition& Benediction..

5.00pm Mass in Llanarth Church – Sick of the Parish.

Sunday 21st December – 4th Sunday of Advent.

***8.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Alan Ockenden RIP.**

***10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Victor Strevens RIP**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

***6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – Margaret & Liam Dowdall**

Mass Reflection:

John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours. He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us. The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2). The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord. As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior. We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18). Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: “Here is your God.”

Collection totals for Sunday, 7th December.

1 st Collection	£83.50
Gift Aid	£178.74
Automated credits (October 2025)	£4525.83
Contactless Card Reader	£126.00

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

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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Today, 12noon in the Parish Centre, for those who have booked places.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES LEAFLETS – Small leaflets giving details of the Xmas day times are available, please take some and distribute to families, friends and neighbours.

COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS – At all masses today towards the cost of flowers to decorate our Church for Christmas.

BIBLE GROUP - Next meeting Wednesday 17th December at 5.30pm. Email Fr. Matthew for the invite.

ABERGAVERNNEY FOODBANK - The donation point for Abergavenny Foodbank is in the church porch. Your continued support by donating items to the food bank is appreciated. The SVP coordinate the transfer of items. The manager of Abergavenny food bank is asking for volunteers to help out at the food bank. 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 PAC meeting on the website and on the notice board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, meets next on Monday 2nd 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. During December we are helping to collect nightwear for hospital patients in liaison with the Nevill Hall hospital chaplaincy and we have an urgent appeal for donations to restock the food pantry and provide families with vouchers for Christmas at All Saints School Ebbw Vale. Your continued help is always gratefully received. New members always welcome to join us. For further information on SVP

visit: <https://www.svp.org.uk> contact: presidentg050512@svp.org.uk, or Fr Matthew.

CATENIAN ASSOCIATION If you are interested in joining us contact Jim Cronin 01873 854498 or jimcronin1@hotmail.com

EVANGELISATION GROUP – Meets next this Tuesday 16th December 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.

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND – a weekend for young men discerning a call to monastic life, Friday 9th-Sunday 11th January. For info contact Fr. Andrew at Belmont, brandrew@belmontabbey.org.uk. Poster at back of Church.

APPLICATIONS TO OLSM SCHOOL. If your child's date of birth is between 1st Sept 2021 and 31st August 2022, they are eligible to start reception in Sept 2026. The admissions process for that date has already started. Closing Date for applications 15th January at 4pm. Offer date 16th 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.

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

Life Charity Pregnancy matters. Need to talk? Call free 0800 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 this Friday 19th December 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 21st June at 10am.** **NEXT MEETING FOR CANDIDATES AND ANY YOUNG PEOPLE – FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER, 7PM IN THE CENTRE.**

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.

ARCHDIOCESAN ADVENT RETREAT - "God enters only his own rooms, where someone is always keeping watch for him..." - Father Alfred Delp SJ. St Joseph's, New Zealand Road, Cardiff are having an Advent Retreat on Saturday 20 December from 9.15 am – 12 noon. It will begin with Mass followed by a talk, adoration & confession. **ALL ARE WELCOME**

LLANARTH PARISH CAROL SERVICE – Thursday 18th December 7pm.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – 7 Children have been enrolled on the course, next session of preparation this Sunday 14th December at 9am in the presbytery..

BELMONT ABBEY SHOP - The last day of trading at Belmont Abbey Shop before the Christmas break is on Sunday the 21 of December. The shop will reopen for business on Monday 5 of January 2026 at 2pm. Father James and all the shop volunteers would like to thank all our customers for their support during the year and wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND OF OUR PARISH: 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 – Derrick Matthews, Fr. Stephen Holdsworth OSB, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and all those whose names are recorded on the November lists of the dead.**

."CHURCH FLOWER-ARRANGING TEACH-IN - The teach-in is free and everything needed provided but we ask that people attend both Saturdays and offer help reasonably regularly to decorate the church (usually Friday/Saturday). 2nd Session on Saturday 13th December from 2pm until 5.30pm, in the school hall. Email amgraves@btinternet.com **Safe Spaces** Support, Advice and Info Tel: 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available email: SafeSpaces@FirstLight.org.uk Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY – The Neville Hall chaplaincy has asked if we can provide any 2nd hand/good quality nightwear that patients can use – pyjamas, dressing gowns, bed jackets etc. Please bring to Church. **HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY CAROL SINGING** – Monday 22nd December, am & pm, meet in Neville Hall chapel at 9.30am or 1.30pm, then singing on the wards. Poster at back of Church.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES. Vigil Masses in OLSM on Wednesday 24th December at 6pm and 10pm. Morning mass on Thursday 25th at 11.00am. (Mass in Llanarth at 9am.)

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE – with a number of priests to hear confessions, this Monday 15th December 7pm in OLSM..

FULL SCHOOL MASS – This Wednesday at 10am, no mass in Llanarth.

THURSDAY MASS – No mass in the parish on Thursday this week- Apologies, Fr. Matthew at a meeting at Belmont all day.

FR. MATTHEW AWAY – From Monday 29th to Saturday 3rd January, on yet another Caribbean Cruise!!