



Priory Church of Our Lady and St Michael, Abergavenny
Eglwys y Priordy Ein Harglywyddes a Mihangel Sant, y Fenni
Parish Priest: Father Matthew Carney OSB [\(01873\) 851051](tel:01873851051) Mobile: 07402 979597
The Presbytery, 10 Pen Y Pound, ABERGAVENNY NP7 5UD
Email: fr.matthew@live.co.uk or matthew.carney@rcadc.org
Website: www.olsm-bergavenny.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch
St Michael's Centre [\(01873\) 857750](tel:01873857750)
Our Lady and St. Michael's School [\(01873\) 735080](tel:01873735080)
Deacon: Rev Dr Andreas Erhardt [\(01873\) 855078](tel:01873855078)
Safeguarding reps: William & Evelyn Duggan [\(07581\) 168719](tel:07581168719).
Dial-a-Mass Service [\(01873\) 777190](tel:01873777190)

Sunday 18th January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.



Saturday 17th January – Sunday 25th January 2025.

All Church services live streamed at

www.olsm-bergavenny.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 most days on

www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch

Saturday, 17th 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 18th January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

PEACE SUNDAY, ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL FOR SPUC & WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

(Weekday services 12noon, locations overleaf.)

***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.**

Monday 19th January – St. Wulstan.

***10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Kitty Powell RIP.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

Tuesday, 20th January – St's Fabian/Sebastian.

No mass today. 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

Wednesday 21st January – St. Agnes.

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

5.30pm Bible Group.

Thursday 22nd January – St. Vincent.

***12.00noon Mass in OLSM Church – Elizabeth Coopey RIP.**

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

Friday, 23rd January.

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

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook. 6.00pm Faith Group.

Saturday, 24th January – St. Frances de Sales.

9.30am Rosary for Life.

10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Roy & Alan Ockenden RIP.

10.45am – Confessions, exposition and Benediction.

2.00pm Unity Service – St. Mary's Priory.

5.00pm Mass in Llanarth Church – Peter Cunningham Davies RIP

Sunday 25th January – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY - APPEAL FOR LEPROA.

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

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

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

***6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – Elizabeth Coopey RIP.**

Mass Reflection:

Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading. He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant," He said to Me." Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus—to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46–47). Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians. In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel today. Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God. The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin-offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins. They were meant not to save but to teach. In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will. Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience and made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle. He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb. And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass (see Romans 12:1).

Collection totals for Sunday, 11th January.

1 st Collection	£172.80
Gift Aid	£173.00
Automated credits (November 2025)	£3536.33
Contactless Card Reader	£100.00

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.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. Runs from this Sunday 18th to Saturday 25th January, details of services overleaf.

USK PARISH – FOOD KITCHEN. In the Abergavenny branch of Waitrose, one of the local projects that could benefit from the Waitrose Community Matters scheme is the Usk Food Kitchen. The Usk Food Kitchen is an initiative that is based in Catholic Church Hall in Usk. On Tuesday and Thursday each week volunteers from the local area provide 50 hot meals for those in need. The Kitchen is entirely funded by charitable donations. A donation from the Waitrose scheme would be most welcome. The size of the donation from Waitrose is based on the number of votes gained by each individual project. Votes are made by putting green tokens which can be collected from the till areas into the Community Matters box found at the store's door. The scheme gaining the most votes receives £1500, the scheme with the next highest total receives £1000 and the other project receives £500.

BIBLE GROUP - Next meeting Wednesday 21st 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. 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 and the December 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.

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. 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: 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 Tuesday 13th 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.

LEPRA APPEAL – We are holding an appeal to support the work of Lepra next Sunday 25th January, which is World Leprosy Day. Lepra works to support the many victims of leprosy in our world. Poster at back of Church.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – From this Sunday 18th to Sunday 25th 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 24th 2pm in St. Mary's Priory. Poster at back of Church.

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

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER – The Archdiocese is looking to recruit a safeguarding officer, Fr. Matthew has info on the role or at <https://rcadc.org/vacancy-safeguarding-officer/>

ELIZABETH COOPEY RIP, Please pray for the repose of the soul of Elizabeth Coopey who died in hospital last Thursday.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – 7

Children have been enrolled on the course, the re-arranged 3rd session of preparation is on Monday 26th January at 3.45pm in school.

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 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 16th 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 McLaren, 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.

Next meeting Friday 23rd January at 7pm in the centre. The Confirmation has now been confirmed as Sunday 21st June at 10am.

Legislative Consent Motion on Assisted Suicide Bill - As the Senedd prepares to debate whether to give legislative consent to Westminster's Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, Archbishop Mark and Bishop Peter Bignal wish to express their deep concern about legalising assisted suicide in Wales. International experience shows that where assisted suicide is legalised, eligibility criteria expand over time and subtle pressure is placed on those who are elderly, disabled, or who fear becoming a burden. True compassion means accompanying those who suffer and ensuring no one feels abandoned, not ending life. They urge Members of the Senedd to withhold consent and focus on strengthening palliative care. **On Monday 26th January, those who can are asked to observe a day of fasting** in solidarity with the vulnerable. **Please also engage respectfully with your Member of the Senedd** to make your voice heard on this important decision for Wales. Please go to for info on how to contact members of the Senedd <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/oppose-assisted-suicide-in-wales/> Copies of the Bishops letter are available in Church and on the parish website.

FEAST OF CANDLEMASS - PRESENTATION – Once again this year the parish will be playing host to the religious of the Archdiocese on Monday 2nd February, the Day of Prayer for Consecrated life. Mass at 12noon to be celebrated by Archbishop Mark, followed by lunch in the centre.

RISE THEATRE – PASSION PLAY – Rise Theatre will be performing a passion play in Church on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm. More info to follow.

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, 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 – Elizabeth Coopey, Peter Cunningham Davies, Fr. John Phillips 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 £600 we recently made, the proceeds received at the Crib in 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.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL – The annual White Flower Appeal in aid SPUC- the Society for the protection of the Unborn Child, takes place this Sunday, 18th 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 dieing/suicide. Postcards and stickers to be distributed at all masses.

PEACE SUNDAY. This Sunday, 18th 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.

NO MASS ON TUESDAY THIS WEEK – Fr. Matthew at St. Albans school first thing, then meetings at Belmont.

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