



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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 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 28<sup>th</sup> December – Feast of the Holy Family.**



**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025.**

**“Pilgrims of Hope.”**

**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)

**Fr. Matthew away from Monday to Saturday, Fr. Jonathon from Belmont celebrating the masses on Wednesday and Thursday.**

**He is available on 01432 374737.**

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> December – St. John.**

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 28<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Family.**

**\*8.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Tom & Eileen Thompson.**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – For “Life.” & Eileen Nuttall.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**\*6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – People of the Parish.**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December – St. Thomas Becket**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Roy & Alan Ockenden RIP, Ian Vincent Williamson RIP.**

(Fr. Matthew away till Saturday.)

**Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> December.**

No mass today.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December –**

**\*10.30am Mass in Llanarth Church – Margaret Watkins RIP.**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January – Mary, Mother of God.**

**\*12.00noon Mass in OLSM Church- Phyllis & Joshua Lynch RIP**

**Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

No mass today.

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January – The Most Holy Name of Jesus.**

(No confessions or exposition today.)

11.30am Rosary for Life.

**12.00noon Mass in OLSM Church –**

(Note later mass time today.)

**5.00pm Mass in Llanarth Church – Margaret Watkins RIP.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas.**

**\*8.00am Mass in OLSM Church –**

**\*10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Ethel Hutchison RIP & Eileen Nuttall.**

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.

**\*6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – People of the Parish.**

### Mass Reflection:

Underlying the wisdom offered in today's Liturgy is the mystery of the family in God's divine plan. The Lord has set father in honor over his children and mother in authority over her sons, we hear in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, the blessings of the family flow from Zion, the heavenly mother of the royal people of God (see Isaiah 66:7, 10–13; Galatians 4:26). And in the drama of today's Gospel, we see the nucleus of the new people of God—the Holy Family—facing persecution from those who would seek to destroy the child and His Kingdom. Moses, called to save God's first born son, the people of Israel (see Exodus 4:22; Sirach 36:11), was also threatened at birth by a mad and jealous tyrant (see Exodus 1:15–16). And as Moses was saved by his mother and sister (see Exodus 2:1–10; 4:19), in God's plan Jesus too is rescued by His family. As once God took the family of Jacob down to Egypt to make them the great nation Israel (see Genesis 46:2–4), God leads the Holy Family to Egypt to prepare the coming of the new Israel of God—the Church (see Galatians 6:16). At the beginning of the world, God established the family in the “marriage” of Adam and Eve, the two becoming one body (see Genesis 2:22–24). Now in the new creation, Christ is made “one body” with His bride, the Church, as today's Epistle indicates (see Ephesians 5:21–32). By this union we are made God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. And our families are to radiate the perfect love that binds us to Christ in the Church. As we approach the altar on this feast, let us renew our commitment to our God-given duties as spouses, children and parents. Mindful of the promises of today's First Reading, let us offer our quiet performance of these duties for the atonement of our sins.

### Collection totals for Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December.

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	£189.41
Gift Aid	£195.00
Automated credits (November 2025)	£3536.33
Contactless Card Reader	£96.00

**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.

**CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION** – Thankyou for your generosity to the collection taken on Christmas day-the clergy offering. The total amount will be announced next week.

**BIBLE GROUP - Next meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm. Email Fr. Matthew for the invite.**

**ABERGAVENTNY 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 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. 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](mailto: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](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.

**ABBOT BRENDAN** – and all the monks of Belmont send their Christmas and New Year greetings to all parishioners. Fr. Matthew will be having Christmas day lunch with the monastic community.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.

**SYRO – MALIBAR RITE MASS** – To be celebrated monthly in our parish. Next mass Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm.

**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 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.

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

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** – Christmas cards for parishioners can be left on the table at the back of Church, please check to see if there are any cards for you there.

**BR. ALBAN** – Br. Alban will be making his CLAustral Oblation (becoming a Choir Oblate) at Belmont on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, during mass at 12noon.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND OF OUR PARISH:** Eileen Nuttall, Susan Lewell, 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, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

**FLOWER COLLECTION** – Thankyou for your wonderful generosity to the collection for Christmas flowers and decorations last Sunday, over £570 was given. Thankyou.

**MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND** – a weekend for young men discerning a call to monastic life, Friday 9<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January. For info contact Fr. Andrew at Belmont, [brandrew@belmontabbey.org.uk](mailto:brandrew@belmontabbey.org.uk). Poster at back of Church.

**FR. MATTHEW AWAY** – From this Monday 29<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, on yet another Caribbean Cruise!! Fr. Jonathon from Belmont will be celebrating some weekday masses and will be available on 01432 374737.

**CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS** – This year will be offered to the charity Aid to the Church in need and the Archdiocesan Caritas branch. Once again members of our Keralite community will be preparing the crib this year.

**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.

**THANKYOU** – From Fr. Matthew for all the kind Christmas cards and gifts received.

**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.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY** – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, a Holy day of obligation, Vigil Monday Mass in Llanarth at 5pm, on the day 10am, and 7pm in OLSM. School mass at 1.30pm.

**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.