



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
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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 4th January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas.



Saturday 3rd January – Sunday 11th January 2025. All Church services live streamed at www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk <u>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.</u> Evening Prayer at 5pm on www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch
Saturday, 3rd 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 4th January – 2nd 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.
Monday 5th January *10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – (5.00pm Syro Malabar Rite mass in OLSM Church.) 5.00pm Vigil Mass in Llanarth Church
Tuesday, 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany. Holyday of Obligation. *10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – People of the Parish. *1.30pm School Mass in OLSM Church – 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook. *7.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – Sick of the Parish.
Wednesday 7th January – St. Raymond. *10.30am Mass in Llanarth Church – Margaret Watkins RIP. 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook. 5.30pm Bible Group.
Thursday 8th January – *12.00noon Mass in OLSM Church- 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook.
Friday, 9th January. *10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook. 6.00pm Faith Group.
Saturday, 10th 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 – Margaret Watkins RIP.
Sunday 11th January – Baptism of the Lord. *8.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Sick of the Parish. (9.00am 1 st Holy Communion session in Centr,) *10.00am Mass in OLSM Church – Nicola Robinson RIP. 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Facebook. *6.00pm Mass in OLSM Church – People of the Parish.

Mass Reflection: Today the child born on Christmas is revealed to be the long-awaited king of the Jews. As the priests and scribes interpret the prophecies in today's Gospel, He is the ruler expected from the line of King David, whose greatness is to reach to the ends of the earth (see Micah 5:1–3; 2 Samuel 5:2). Jesus is found with His mother, as David's son, Solomon, was enthroned alongside his Queen Mother (see 1 Kings 2:19). And the magi come to pay Him tribute, as once kings and queens came to Solomon (see 1 Kings 10:2,25). His coming evokes promises that extend back to Israel's beginnings. Centuries before, an evil king seeking to destroy Moses and the Israelites had summoned Balaam, who came from the East with two servants. But Balaam refused to curse Israel, and instead prophesied that a star and royal staff would arise out of Israel and be exalted above all the nations (see Numbers 22:21; 23:7; 24:7, 17). This is the star the three magi follow. And like Balaam, they too refuse to be tangled in an evil king's scheme. Their pilgrimage is a sign—that the prophecies in today's First Reading and Psalm are being fulfilled. They come from afar, guided by God's light, bearing the wealth of nations, to praise Israel's God. We celebrate today our own entrance into the family of God, and the fulfillment of God's plan that all nations be united with Israel as co-heirs to His Fatherly blessings, as Paul reveals in today's Epistle. We too must be guided by the root of David, the bright morning star (see Revelation 22:16), and the light of the world (see Isaiah 42:6; John 8:12). As the magi adored Him in the manger, let us renew our vow to serve Him, placing our gifts—our intentions and talents—on the altar in this Eucharist. We must offer to Him our very lives in thanksgiving. No lesser gift will suffice for this newborn King.

Collection totals for Sunday, 28th December.	
1 st Collection	£430.10
Gift Aid	£511.00
Crib Offerings Total	£521.06
Automated credits (November 2025)	£3536.33
Contactless Card Reader	£123.00
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. CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION – Thankyou for your generosity to the collection taken on Christmas day-which amounted to £2398.02 . CRIB OFFERINGS – Thankyou for your donations for Crib Offerings, well over £500 has been given so far.	

BIBLE GROUP - Next meeting Wednesday 7th January at 5.30pm. Email Fr. Matthew for the invite.

ABERGAVERNNY 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 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. 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: 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.

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.

ABBOT BRENDAN – and all the monks of Belmont send their New Year greetings to all parishioners.

CONGRATULATIONS TO - Matilda Bracchi, son of Alex and Eva Bracch, who was baptised last Sunday.

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 9th January at 6pm.

SYRO – MALIBAR RITE MASS – To be celebrated monthly in our parish. Next mass this Monday 5th 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 21st 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.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – 7 Children have been enrolled on the course, next session of preparation next Sunday 11th January at 9am in the presbytery..

THANKYOU - to all those who prepared the Church his year for Christmas – our wonderful flower arrangers, cleaners and those who produced the wonderful crib scene. Thanks also to our Choir, readers, ministers and stewards.

HEREFORD PARISH- ROME PILGRIMAGE. Open Invitation to SFX Parish Pilgrimage to Rome. Monday 5th—Friday 9th 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!

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.**

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.

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 have prepared 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 – This Tuesday 6th 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.

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

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