

St Alban's Pontypool and St Felix Blaenavon

St Albans; Conway Road, Pontypool NP4 6HL
 Sacred Heart & St Felix Ellick Street, Blaenavon NP4 9RA
 Parish Priest: Canon Paul Millar (01495 762280)
 Parish email: pontypool@cardiffmenevia.org
 Website: www.pontypoolparish.co.uk
 Parish Safeguarding Representative: Tristan Griffin

Masses for the week beginning 8 February 2026

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| Saturday 14 February | 4.30pm St Felix 6.00pm St Albans | <i>Vigil Masses for Sunday</i> Elizabeth Evans RIP Trina Hitchins (well being) |
| Sunday 15 February | 9.15am Usk 11.00am St Alban | <i>6th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> Bill Hayes RIP People of the Parish |
| Monday 16 February | 9.30am St Albans | <i>Week 6 of Ordinary Time</i> Holy Souls |
| Tuesday 17 February | 12 noon Usk | <i>Week 6 of Ordinary Time</i> Teyrnon Williams Int |
| Wednesday 18 February | 12 noon Usk 7.00pm St Alban's | Ash Wednesday People of the Parish Private Intention |
| Thursday 19 February | No Mass Today | <i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i> |
| Friday 20 February | 9.30am St Albans | <i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i> |
| Saturday 21 February | 4.30pm St Felix 6.00pm St Albans | <i>Vigil Masses for Sunday</i> Karl Knutt RIP People of the Parish |
| Sunday 22 February | 9.15am Usk 11.00am St Alban | <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> Gareth Jones RIP |

Counters This week L & J Peters Next week L & A Whiting

Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is a day of Fast and Abstinence. There will be a Mass in Usk at 12noon and in Pontypool at 7.00pm. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at both Masses.

First Communion Preparation

There will not be a meeting this week.

100 Club

Many thanks to those who have subscribed to the 100 Club. If you wish to join for the rest of the year, the cost is £1 a month which can be paid monthly or £10 for the rest of the year. The Prize is £25 per month. If you are interested, please put your contribution together with your name in an envelope and leave it in the sacristy.

The winner for January is Sinead Blowers

The winner for February is Leane Williams

Young Adults Holy Week Retreat

A residential retreat for young adults aged 18-30 will take place on 27-29th March at Belmont Abbey. The retreat costs £150pp, (plus a £25 single supplement.) The retreat is full board, with a full timetable of activities, including a trip into Hereford to learn about local martyr St John Kemble. Register at youth@cardiffmenevia.org or use the Q code on the poster

Youth Event

A one-day event for youth in year 8 to year 13 will take place in Belmont Abbey on March 14th cost £15pp. The day will include holy Mass, lunch, an experience of monastic life and a walk in the countryside. The day will be an opportunity to pray together during Lent, and a chance to get to know other young Catholics. The day is £15pp. Register at youth@cardiffmenevia.org or use the Q code on the poster

Walk with me booklets.

These pocket size booklets contain Prayers and daily reflections for the season of Lent. They are available at the back of the church price £1 per copy

Passion Play

Rise Theatre will be performing a Passion Play in OLSM Church in Abergavenny on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 adults, young people free, for ages 11+. Tickets can be booked online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre or via Fr Matthew.

Pope Leo's weekly Catechesis

This week in his Catechesis Catechesis on *Dei Verbum*, and relected on the relationship between the Word of God and the Church?

The Text of the Pope's weekly Audiences can be found on the website of the Holy See.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026.index.html>

Message for Lent

Pope Leo has also issued a message for Lent in which he invites us to open ourselves to listening, fasting, and community, urging us to abstain from words of hatred in order to make space for words of hope and peace.

www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/len/documents/2026-0205-messaggio-quaresima.html

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

St Alban's Church

On Thursday, July 23, 1846, St Alban's Church was officially opened with a High Mass celebrated by Bishop Brown, Bishop of Newport and Menevia. St Alban's has had a varied and interesting history and became the focus for Catholicism in the Eastern Valleys. It was felt that we should mark the 180th Anniversary of the opening of the Church. If anyone has ideas, please contact Lorraine Hunter or Kath Moody

The Rite of Election

Next Sunday the Rite of Election will take place in St David's Cathedral at 3.00pm.

The Rite of Election is ceremony, where adults seeking baptism or to be received into full communion of the Church publicly declare their commitment to becoming Catholic, and the Bishop formally accepts them as the "Elect" for initiation at Easter, marking their final preparation for the

Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).

This year Jack and Luke Barry are to be baptised at the Easter Vigil, please remember them in your prayers as they prepare to become full members of the Church.

Parish Safeguarding Representative

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is responsible for promoting safe practice in activities involving children, young people and adults at risk. They also provide a link between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office. The Parish Safeguarding Representative assists with the recruitment of people to ministries or roles within their parish, and helps people with the DBS check process.

Usk Food Kitchen

The Abergavenny branch of Waitrose is currently supporting the Usk Food Kitchen through its community Matters Scheme. If you shop at Waitrose in Abergavenny, please use the green tokens which you are given at the till to vote for the Usk Food Kitchen in the Community Matters box found at the store's door. The Usk Food Kitchen operates from St David Lewis Church Hall and provides hot meals twice a week for those in need.