

Sunday Newsletter

Issue No. 1
of 2026

***St Ffagan, St Luc & St Iago, Aberdâr
St Fagan, St Luke & St James, Aberdare
Sunday 4th January – Epiphany***

Church Services

Today: Y Cymun Bendigaid, 3.30pm St Fagan

Next Sunday: (11th January)

8.30am Eucharist, St James, 9.30am Eucharist, St Fagan

11am Eucharist St Luke,

Services this week:

Day & Church	Eucharist
Tues 6 th Dec, St James	9.30am
Wed 7 th Dec, St Fagan	9.30am
Thurs 8 th Dec, St Luke	10.00am

St Fagan's Sunday 9.30 services are usually livestreamed at

www.facebook.com/stfagansaberdare

The custom of chalking the door

This is an old Christian custom performed on January 6th. It ties together the visit of the Magi, the blessing of our homes, and the start of a new year and is a wonderful tradition to wrap up the Christmas Season with gratitude for the past twelve days of festivities and to begin a new year with faith in Christ's blessings.

Take some blessed chalk home and write "20+C+M+B+26" (for 2026) above your door, blessing your home for the year ahead ; the numbers are the year, the crosses represent Christ, and CMB stands for the Three Wise Men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar) or "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" (May Christ bless this house). Leave it there all year until Advent begins when you can wash off any remaining chalk then wait for Epiphany 2027 when we do it all over again.

Activities and events this week

Monday 5th January: Quiz Night, Red Cow, Llwydcoed, 7.30pm

Thursday 8th January: Caffi Cinio, St Fagan's Hall, 1pm,

Space for Prayer, online, 7pm (see Peta for the code)

Saturday 10th January: Pantri Cariad, St Fagan's Hall, 2.30-3pm

Help please!

Next Sunday Jan 11th, we are going to take down the tree and decorations in St Fagan's after the morning service. If you can stay and help that would be most appreciated. Refreshments will be provided for the workers!

QUIZ NIGHT – THE FIRST OF 2026!

Monday, January 5th, 7.30pm in the Red Cow, Llwydcoed. Form a team in advance or join one on the night - £2 per person. All proceeds go to Church funds.

Plygain 2026

In St Fagan's on 18th January at 5pm – a traditional service of Welsh carols, sung by various local choirs followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome! Croeso i bawb!

Date for your diary!

On Thursday 22nd January, Bishop Mary will preside at the official licensing service to formally welcome Fr Hywel Snook to our Ministry Area. This will be in St Elvan's at 7pm followed by light refreshments.

The Blessed Sacrament lamp in St Fagan's
burns this week

for blessings on the New Year

Liturgical calendar for the week

Texts of readings can be found at universalis.com/mass.htm

Date	Feast Day and Daily Eucharist Readings	Prayer Intention
Monday 5 th January	1 John 3.7-10, Psalm 98. 1,2,7-9, John 1.35-42	Local schools as they start a new term
Tuesday 6 th January	1 John 3.11-18, Psalm 100, John 1.43-51	That we might reveal Christ to the world
Wednesday 7 th January	1 John 3.19 - 4.6, Psalm 2, Matthew 4.12-17, 23-25	Local nursing and residential homes
Thursday 8 th January	1 John 4.7-12, Psalm 72.1-8, Mark 6.30-44	Protection of the environment
Friday 9 th January	1 John 4.11-19, Psalm 72.1,2, 10-13, Mark 6.45-52	Local police and PCSOs
Saturday 10 th January	<i>William Laud, Bishop (1645)</i> 1 John 4.19 - 5.4, Psalm 72.1,2, 14-20, Luke 4.14-22	All bishops
Next Sunday		
Sunday 11 th January	<i>The Baptism of Christ</i> Isaiah 42.1-19 Psalm 29, Acts 10. 34-43, Matthew 3.13-17	Our ministry area and its people

For your prayers

We pray for all who need our prayers:

Angela, Jeanette, Melanie, John, Donna, Dave, Alison L., Nick, Perry, Lucy,
Alun, Kelly

We also pray for the repose of the souls of the recently departed
John Rees

and for those whose anniversary of death occurs this coming week

Betty Welford (4th), Joyce Thomas (5th), William Iestyn Jenkins (5th),

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Darius, King of Persia, has permitted the people of Israel to return to Jerusalem. The prophet tells the people to arise, for joy, prosperity and salvation are now in the city; God is with them; they will reflect the presence and power of God.

Ephesians 3. 1-12

It is part of God's plan that both Jews and Gentiles are called to share in Christ's saving activity. This is the "mystery of Christ". Paul's telling people not to sacrifice to the Emperor has led to his imprisonment.

Matthew 2: 1-12

*"Wise men" (in Latin: *magi*) were members of a Persian caste of astrologers and interpreters of dreams. Astrology was widely accepted then. A star was associated with each person; the way the star rose told the wise men that a king had been born. A later church tradition called the wise men kings.*

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