



St Benedict's, Sketty

St Joachim & St Anne, Dunvant

The Catholic Church in West Swansea & Gower



Parish Priest: Father John Browne VF **Telephone:** 01792 201 046 **Mobile:** 07510 933 711

Parish Priest's Address: The Catholic Church, Llys Teg, Dunvant, Swansea, SA2 7QQ

Email: sketty@menevia.org / dunvant@menevia.org **Parish Website:** www.gowercatholic.com

Confessions St Benedict's: Before Mass & on request, in confessional box near sacristy.

Confessions St Joachim & St Anne: Before Mass & on request, in confessional box in side chapel.

Safeguarding: Please see Safeguarding Policy and contact information in the porch of both churches.

Home Visits: Please phone Father to arrange Holy Communion at home due to being unwell or homebound.

Local Catholic Schools: St David's Catholic Primary School & Bishop Vaughan Catholic Comprehensive School.

New to the Church? If you are new - you are very welcome - please introduce yourself to Father John.

Parish Bank Details: Sketty Parish A/c 74242768 S/c 60-21-41 | Dunvant Parish A/c 74242776 S/c 60-21-41

Collection Tokens: Tokens are available for those who donate by standing order (or no cash) to put in the collection.

Mass Intentions: Please find printed envelopes in both church porches.

Hospital Chaplains: Morriston: Father Artur, Tel 01792 771 053 | Singleton: Father Clement, Tel 07459 335 606.

Parish Newsletter - Sunday 27th September 2026

Date	Service	Time	Church	Mass Intentions	Liturgical Notes
Sat 26 th Sept	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Jerom's int.	26 th Sun in OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Private int.	26 th Sun in OT
Sun 27 th Sept	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Mabel Thomas+ Lizzy Hericourt+ Pro Populo	26 th Sun in OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty		26 th Sun in OT
Mon 28 th Sept	In private	-	-		
Tues 29 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Allan Meredith+	The Archangels
Wed 30 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	John Rafferty int.	St Jerome
Thur 1 st Oct	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Jackie Rees int.	St Therese
Fri 2 nd Oct	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	JJ Hanly+	Guardian Angels
Sat 3 rd Oct	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Joan Curnock int.	27 th Sun in OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Pro Populo	27 th Sun in OT
Sun 4 th Oct	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Ann Gavin+ Thanksgiving (Logan)	27 th Sun in OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty	Moiria Gwalchmai 90 th int.	27 th Sun in OT

Before Mass talk to God, during Mass let God talk to you, after Mass talk to each other

Visiting priests: Father will be attending a Mass elsewhere on Saturday 3rd October, and so Fr Matt Roche Saunders will be conducting a Baptism in Dunvant at 11am, and will say the Saturday 4pm and 6pm vigil Masses. The following Saturday Father will be baptising his cousin's son, and so Fr Roderich from Morriston parish will be saying the Saturday 4pm and 6pm vigil Masses.

Updates: The funding application I made with Swansea Council for the Hall at St Benedict's has now been before the decision panel, and we should hear the result fairly soon. I have ordered some long cushions for the altar steps in both Sketty and Dunvant churches, to make it easier for people who wish to kneel, and for the altar servers. We now have a full set of Christmas crib figures for St Benedict's, and I am speaking with a carpenter about making us a stable. I am also enquiring with him about making a more solid lectern for Dunvant church.

Feasts of the Angels: This week there are two feast days of angels. But what are angels? Angels are not simply beautiful figures from religious art, nor are they human beings who have died. The Catholic faith teaches that angels are spiritual, personal beings created by God, with intelligence and free will. They do not have physical bodies as we do, although Scripture often describes them appearing in human form. The word *angel* means "messenger". Throughout Scripture, angels are often sent by God to communicate his will and to take part in his plan of salvation. The angel Gabriel, for example, was sent to Mary to announce that she would become the mother of Jesus. At Christmas, angels proclaim the birth of Christ to the shepherds. Angels also have a particular role in worship. In the Book of Revelation, we are given a glimpse of heaven, where angels continually praise and glorify God. This reminds us that when we come to Mass, we are joining in something much greater than our own parish community: we are joining the worship of heaven. The Church also teaches that God gives his angels a ministry towards humanity. Psalm 91 speaks of God commanding his angels to guard us, and the Church has traditionally spoken of guardian angels, who accompany us. This does not mean

that an angel will prevent every difficulty or danger, but that God's loving care is never absent from our lives. Angels therefore point us beyond ourselves. They remind us that the world we see is not the whole of reality. There is a spiritual dimension to creation, and at its centre is God, who created us and loves us. Perhaps one of the simplest prayers we may have learned as children says it beautifully: **"Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide."** It is a prayer worth praying again - not only as children, but as adults who still need to remember that we are never outside the loving care of God. The Church also teaches that fallen angels, or demons, are angels who freely rejected God and his goodness; their choice separated them from God, and they now seek to turn humanity away from God too.

Sunday Homily

We often find it easier to see what is wrong with other people than to recognise what might be wrong with ourselves. We can be quite perceptive when it comes to someone else's faults. We notice their impatience, their selfishness, their habits, and we can become quite skilled at explaining how they ought to change. But when it comes to ourselves, we can be much less perceptive. We can become comfortable with our own faults, even when those faults affect the people around us. We can make excuses for ourselves that we would never accept from someone else.

But admitting our faults is not failure. It can be the beginning of something very positive. The moment we are able to say, "Perhaps I have got this wrong," or "Perhaps there is something in me that needs to change," we have already taken an important step - which is very much the message of today's Gospel. The father asks his two sons to go and work in the vineyard. The first son refuses. He says no. But later, he thinks again and goes. The second son gives the answer his father wants to hear. He says yes. But he never actually goes. Neither son is perfect. The difference is that the first son allows himself to reconsider. His words change, but more importantly, his actions change.

That is why there is something deeply hopeful about this Gospel. It tells us that our first response does not have to be our final response. We can change direction. We can move from "no" to "yes". We can change our minds, and make the better choice. And this is a pattern we see repeatedly throughout the Christian story. Peter denies Jesus, but later returns to him and becomes one of the great witnesses of the Resurrection. Thomas struggles to believe that Christ has risen, but eventually makes his profession of faith. Paul begins as a persecutor of Christians, yet his encounter with Christ transforms his entire life.

The same pattern can be seen in the saints. Augustine spent years searching in the wrong places before discovering the truth of Christ. Francis of Assisi grew up with wealth and privilege but eventually chose a radically different life of poverty and service. None of these people began as finished products. They became saints because they allowed God to change them. And perhaps that is something we need to remember when we look at our own lives

There may be things about ourselves that we would prefer not to acknowledge. Perhaps we are too quick to judge others. Perhaps we become angry when people do not think or behave as we want. Perhaps we find it hard to admit we are wrong. Perhaps our relationship with God has gradually slipped down the list of priorities. Perhaps we have become engrossed in a sinful habit.

The Gospel invites us to be honest about these things. Not so that we can become discouraged or downhearted, but so that we can let Christ's healing light shine into these particular areas of our lives. Because, as the saying goes: "the Saints were not always saints, and our sins do not have to decide who we become." A sin can be forgiven. A trauma can be healed. A habit can be altered. A cold heart can become warmer. A person who has wandered away can find their way home. This is the hope at the heart of today's Gospel.

The first son said no - but he did not remain trapped or bound by that answer. He changed his mind and he went. And perhaps that is the question Jesus places before each of us today: Where in my life am I being asked to move from "no" to "yes"? Where do I need to acknowledge that I have got something wrong? Where do I need to stop looking at everyone else's faults and take a more honest look at my own? Where is God inviting me to begin again? We should not be afraid of these questions. Because conversion is not about becoming a different person whom we may not recognise. It is about letting God shape us into the person he always created us to be.

Perhaps the real challenge of the two sons in the Gospel is that neither of them is perfect. One says the right thing but does not follow through; the other says the wrong thing but eventually does what his father asks. The first son shows us that a poor beginning does not have to lead to a poor ending. The second son reminds us that good intentions are not enough if they never become action. We may recognise something of ourselves in both sons. There are times when our words are better than our actions, and times when we resist God but later find the grace to respond. The question is - not whether we have always been the perfect son or daughter. What matters is what we do when God calls us: whether, despite our hesitations and failures, we are eventually willing to say yes and enter our Father's vineyard.