



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@cardiffmenevia.org / dunvant@cardiffmenevia.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 25th October 2026

Date	Service	Time	Church	Mass Intentions	Liturgical Notes
Sat 24 th Oct	Mass Mass	4:00pm 6:00pm	Sketty Dunvant	Adrian Macpherson-Jones+ Pope Leo int.	30 th Sun in OT 30 th Sun in OT
Sun 25 th Oct	Mass Mass	9:15am 11:15am	Dunvant Sketty	Ciaran Ryan+ Teresa Kielthy+ Agnus Antony birthday int.	30 th Sun in OT 30 th Sun in OT
Mon 26 th Oct	In private	-	-	Pro Populo	
Tues 27 th Oct	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Colin Ronan+	
Wed 28 st Oct	Mass Holy Hour	10:00am 7.30pm	Sketty Sketty	Sister Agatha+	Ss Simon & Jude
Thur 29 th Oct	Mass The Rosary	10:00am After Mass	Dunvant	Martin Edmonds+	Douai Martyrs
Fri 30 th Oct	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Jan Komenda+	St Marcellus
Sat 31 st Oct	Mass Mass	4:00pm 6:00pm	Sketty Dunvant	Sue Morgan+ David Hughes+ Wendy B int.	All Saints All Saints
Sun 1 st Nov	Mass Mass	9:15am 11:15am	Dunvant Sketty	Ann Gavin+ William, Nano, Bill King+ Marie, Eddie, & Ian Grey+	All Saints All Saints
Mon 2 nd Nov All Souls Day	Mass Mass	10:00am 6:15pm	Sketty Dunvant	Hilary & Leon Andrews int. The Holy Souls+	All Souls All Souls

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

Sketty October Holy Hour: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Wednesdays 7.30pm to 8.30pm at St Benedict's. **Dunvant October Rosary:** After every Thursday 10am morning Mass.

November Dead Lists: Lists and envelopes are available in both church porches. All names on the Lists will be remembered during Masses in the Month of November, the Month of Remembrance. They may be placed in the following locations:

Sketty: "Mass Intentions" Letterbox which is by the Sacristy Door.

Dunvant: "Mass Intentions" Letterbox which is by the Sacristy Door, or Collection Box at back of church.

All Souls Day (next Monday 2nd Nov): All Souls Day is not a Holy Day, but there will be Mass in each Parish that day: 10am in Sketty, and 6.15pm in Dunvant.

Dunvant Christmas Altar Servers practice: There will be a rehearsal this coming Monday (2nd) at 7pm in Dunvant.

Financial Statements: As you may have noticed, the monthly Collections for both Parishes are no longer published here. My wish instead is to issue a Summary of Accounts at the end of each financial year. This will be a more balanced way of delivering information as it will include the Outgoings as opposed to just the Incomings. All collections/standing order amounts (not names of donors) will be included in such a Summary.

Dunvant Tea & Coffee: Next Sunday after 9.15am Mass. More volunteers are needed to prepare and serve, please let Marilyn or Father know if you are interested, thank you.

Sunday Homily

There is a phrase we sometimes hear: "You don't need to be religious to be good." And, of course, there is truth in that. We all know people who do not practice any religion but who are kind, generous and genuinely concerned about others. Equally, we know that going to Mass does not automatically make someone a good person.

But perhaps today's Gospel invites us to ask a different question: not simply whether we need religion to be good, but whether we can fully understand goodness if we leave God out of the picture. When Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment, he gives two answers: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. He does not choose between them. He insists that they belong together.

Yet in our society, it can sometimes seem that the second commandment matters far more than the first. We speak about kindness, fairness, compassion and inclusion, but love of God is often left out of the conversation. As long as we try to be decent people, we are asked, what need is there for prayer, worship or religion?

There is another difficulty. We have become uncomfortable with the language of sin. We are happy to talk about mistakes, poor choices and the harm people cause, but to suggest that something is sinful can sound judgemental or old-fashioned.

Yet look at the world around us. We see greed, dishonesty, exploitation, cruelty and the abuse of power. We see people treated without dignity, the vulnerable taken advantage of, and truth sacrificed for personal gain. And we do not need to look only at the wider world. We know from our own experience how easily resentment, pride, selfishness, can damage our relationships.

St Paul understood this struggle. In his Letter to the Romans, he speaks honestly about the difficulty of doing the good he wants to do. He recognises that there can be a conflict within us between knowing what is right and actually doing it. We may dislike the word "sin", but that does not make the reality disappear. Sin describes what happens when we turn away from God and from the good he calls us to do. It damages relationships and diminishes our concern for others. If we lose the ability to recognise sin, we risk losing the ability to recognise our need to change.

But Christianity does not speak about sin simply to make people feel guilty. God calls us to recognise our failings because he wants to forgive us, heal us and help us learn from our sins and begin again. We come before him not because we have everything sorted out, but because we need his love and mercy.

That is why love of God is important. Jesus asks us to look beyond our own egos and preferences, and to seek the will of God. Faith does not reassure us that we are good people. It invites us to become the people God created us to be. And this brings us to the second commandment: love your neighbour as yourself.

If our religious observance amounts to attending Mass and praying, while remaining indifferent to the plight of others, we have misunderstood the Gospel. We cannot claim to love the God we cannot see while refusing compassion to the people we can see.

So when someone says, "You don't need to be religious to be good," we do not need to dismiss the goodness of those who do not share our faith. We recognise and appreciate it. But we can also explain that, for us, goodness has its deepest roots in God. We believe that we are created in God's image, that sin can damage this image, and that his grace can restore and renew us.

That is why we come to Mass. Not because we think ourselves better than those who stay away, but because we know we need God: we need his Word, the Eucharist, his mercy and the strength to follow Christ more faithfully. Jesus does not ask us to choose between loving God and loving our neighbour. He calls us to hold them together. Perhaps the best place to begin is not by dwelling on the sins of society or the shortcomings of others, but by asking God to show us where we ourselves need to change. The challenge of the Gospel begins as a personal challenge.

And perhaps we need to remember that doing what is right will not always win us approval. Kindness may go unnoticed. Honesty may be misunderstood. Forgiveness may not be returned. Yet we are called to love not simply because others will appreciate it, but because love is the way Christ has shown us to live.

There is a passage called "Do It Anyway," often associated with Mother Teresa, which ends with these words: "In the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway."

That is a fitting reminder of what Jesus asks of us. We are not called to judge our lives by the approval of the world, nor to imagine that we are better than others. We are called to remain faithful to God, to acknowledge our need for his mercy, and to let his love shape the way we treat our neighbour.

For when love of God and love of neighbour come together, we begin to understand the greatest commandment. And we discover that our need for God is not a weakness to be ashamed of, but the beginning of a life continually renewed by his love.