



# St Benedict's, Sketty St Joachim & St Anne, Dunvant



The Catholic Church in West Swansea & Gower

Parish Priest: Father John Browne 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 contact Father (preferably in writing) to arrange Communion at home due to infirmity.

Appointments: If you wish to meet with Father for pastoral support, please contact him to make an appointment.

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 Rod, Tel 07792 003 905 | Singleton: Father Clement, Tel 07459 335 606.

## Parish Newsletter - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Date	Service	Time	Church	Mass Intentions	Liturgical Notes
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Betty Hannigan int.	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Peggy Powell+	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Phin Probert+ Rita O'Rourke+	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty	John Ryan+	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> June	In private	-	-	Pro Populo	
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Thanksgiving (Nia)	
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	No Mass	-	-	-	-
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Bill, Nano, and William King+	
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Thanksgiving (Mary)	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Mary Segadelli+	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Pro Populo	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Michael Dorney+	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty	Canon Jason Jones+	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT

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

**Thank You:** My heartfelt thanks to you all for the great love you showed to me on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Thank You:** On behalf of both Parishes, thank you to all those who helped and assisted with arrangements for the First Holy Communion Mass last Sunday.

**Weekday Mass:** there will be no Mass this Wednesday due to Father having a prior commitment.

**Classes for Confirmation:** St Benedict's Church, Sketty, Fridays 6:30pm

**Date for Confirmation Mass:** with Archbishop Mark on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June - St Benedict's Sketty - 2pm

**\*\*Rehearsal: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm - please tell Father John if you cannot attend the Rehearsal\*\***

**Parish Social Media:** I hope to add these details onto the Parish Gower Catholic Website later this week.

**Killay Precinct Summer Songs of Praise:** Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 6pm. Advisable to bring a folding chair.

**Day for Life:** Next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, is the "Day for Life." If you wish to donate to the Church's pro-life outreach, you may do so by using the green envelopes available in the church porches (and placing them in the usual collection bags or donations box) or online by going to: [cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life](http://cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life). Thank you.

**Archdiocesan Youth Summer Camp - St David's Pembrokeshire:** There are still places available for young people (School Years 9-13) to attend this summer camp August 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The cost is £275, but the Parish will subsidise the cost for parishioners. Transport available. Please contact Father John asap.

**Young People's Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine, Cardigan:** School Years 8-13, 18<sup>th</sup> July 11am-5pm. Please contact Father Matt at [youth@cardiffmenevia.org](mailto:youth@cardiffmenevia.org) to register. Transport available from select locations.

**Arandora Star Annual Mass of Remembrance:** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 11am at Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral.

**From Archdiocese's Communications team:** A big thank you to everyone who has been sending in parish and school news - the contributions keep growing each month! If you have an upcoming event or story you'd like featured on our website, social media or in the June newsletter - which goes out in three weeks - please get in touch at [communications@rcadc.org](mailto:communications@rcadc.org).

**Intentional Accompaniment Day, Saturday 20th June | 11am – 4pm | Our Lady of Peace, Llanelli:** Sharing our Faith with others is at the heart of being a missionary disciple - something Archbishop Mark has placed at the centre of his vision for the Diocese. CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach) missionaries will be on hand to guide you through Intentional Accompaniment - a practical way of walking alongside others on their journey of Faith, helping them towards conversion and supporting them as they grow into missionary disciples themselves.

## Sunday Homily

J. R. R. Tolkien coined a new word: *eucatastrophe*. It means a “good catastrophe” or, more precisely, “a sudden and unexpected turn from disaster to joy.” It is that moment in a story when all seems lost, when defeat appears certain, and then, unexpectedly, salvation arrives. Death gives way to life, despair to hope.

Tolkien believed that this pattern lies at the heart of Christianity. He wrote that the Gospel is “the greatest and most complete eucatastrophe.” The birth of Christ is the eucatastrophe of human history, and the Resurrection is the eucatastrophe of God becoming man. What appears to be ending in tragedy is transformed into victory.

Anyone familiar with *The Lord of the Rings* will recognise this theme. Again and again, when all hope seems gone, help arrives unexpectedly. Gandalf is rescued from the tower of Orthanc by the Great Eagle. Frodo and Sam are carried from the ruins of Mount Doom after completing their impossible task. The Eagles arrive at crucial moments when defeat appears inevitable.

For Tolkien, the Eagles were more than a literary device. They symbolised divine providence - God's grace breaking into a situation when human strength has reached its limits.

Perhaps Tolkien drew this image from today's first reading. God reminds Israel of how he rescued them from Egypt: “I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.” The image is powerful. Israel could not save itself. God acted on its behalf, bringing the people from slavery to freedom.

Throughout history, the eagle has symbolised strength, vision, and renewal. The early Christians associated the eagle with St John the Gospel Writer, which is why you often see “eagle style” lecterns in old churches. Others saw the eagle as an image of Christ himself, lifting humanity towards God.

What matters most, however, is what this image tells us about God. To be carried on eagles' wings is to be rescued by a power greater than our own. It is to discover that when we have reached the limits of our strength, God has not reached the limits of his.

This is the message St Paul proclaims in today's second reading. “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Humanity could not save itself. Yet God did not abandon us. The Cross itself looked like a catastrophe. Jesus was rejected, condemned, and crucified. Yet what seemed to be the end became the beginning. The Resurrection transformed apparent catastrophe into victory.

That is the great Christian eucatastrophe.

The same pattern appears in our own lives. We all experience moments when things do not go according to plan: illness, disappointment, failure, grief, or uncertainty about the future. At such times we are tempted to think that God isn't there. Yet the Cross teaches us otherwise. The God who raised Jesus from the dead is capable of bringing good even from situations that seem hopeless.

This does not mean that every problem is immediately solved or every sorrow instantly removed. It means that Christians live with a particular kind of hope. We believe that God is still at work even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

Tolkien once observed that Christians must still “work, suffer, hope, and die.” Faith does not exempt us from these realities of life. But because of Christ's Resurrection, we know that suffering and death do not have the final say.

That is why Jesus sends out the Apostles in today's Gospel - to proclaim that “the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.” Their message is not that life will be easy. Their message is that God has acted decisively in Christ, and that every apparent catastrophe can now be viewed in the light of the Resurrection.

The Christian life is lived between the Cross and the final fulfilment of God's kingdom. We do not yet see the whole story, this much is obvious. But we trust that the God who carried Israel on eagles' wings, who raised Jesus from the dead, and who continues to guide his Church, will bring his purposes to completion.

And that confidence allows us to live with hope, even when the ending is not yet in sight.