



# 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 Text: 07510 933 711

Postal Address: The Catholic Church, Llys Teg, Dunvant, Swansea, SA2 7QQ

E-mail: sketty@menevia.org / dunvant@menevia.org Church 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 tell Father if you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to illness or infirmity.

Local Catholic Schools: St David's Catholic Primary School & Bishop Vaughan 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: Plain tokens are available for those who donate by standing order to put in the collection.

Mass Intentions: Please find printed envelopes in the church porch.

Hospital Chaplains: Morriston: Fr Jason, Tel 07792 003 905; Singleton: Fr Clement, Tel 07459 335 606.

### Parish Newsletter - Sunday 7th December 2025

Date	Service	Time	Church	Mass Intentions	Liturgical Notes
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass Mass	4:00pm 6:00pm	Sketty Dunvant	E&M Prosser int. & Ann Morgan+ Annie Holley+	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass Mass	9:15am 11:15am	Dunvant Sketty	Ann Gavin+ Jarek Newcombe+ Annam Devassy+ & Sr M Carr 90 <sup>th</sup> Rose+ & Mr JI & Mrs E Eburuo	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<i>In private</i>	-	-	Pro Populo	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Theo Cox int. Tom & Maria Daniel+	St Juan Diego
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Devassy Varkey+	Our Lady of Loreto
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Funeral	11:30am	Dunvant	Philippe Nalletamby+	Requiem Mass
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Private int. (D)	OL of Guadalupe
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass Mass	4:00pm 6:00pm	Sketty Dunvant	Ricci int. Josephine Ronan+	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass Mass	9:15am 11:15am	Dunvant Sketty	Joyce Morgan+ 8 <sup>th</sup> birthday blessing Mona-Marija Ursula White+	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

Kyrie eleison **R. Kyrie eleison** Christe eleison **R. Christe eleison** Kyrie eleison **R. Kyrie eleison**

Sanc-tus, Sanc-tus, Sanc-tus Dó-mi-nus De-us Sá-ba-oth.  
 Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra gló-ri-a tu-a. Ho-sán-na in ex-cél-sis.  
 Be-ne-díc-tus qui ve-nit in nó-mi-ne Dó-mi-ni. Ho-sán-na in  
 ex-cél-sis.

Ag-nus De-i, \* qui tol-lis pec-cá-ta mun-di: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.  
 Ag-nus De-i, \* qui tol-lis pec-cá-ta mun-di: mi-se-ré-re no-bis.  
 Ag-nus De-i, \* qui tol-lis pec-cá-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

**Christmas Mass Times:** There are leaflets in both church porches. Service times will be as follows:

#### Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

Mass 4pm - St Benedict's, Sketty

Mass 6pm - St Joachim & St Anne, Dunvant

Mass 8pm - St Joachim & St Anne, Dunvant (usually the quietest Mass)

#### Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> Dec

Mass 9.15am - St Joachim & St Anne, Dunvant

Mass 11.15am - St Benedict's, Sketty

**New Year's Day Rosary & Benediction:** 11am Sketty & 12.30pm Dunvant

**Advent Confessions - Visiting Priests:** In our Parishes there will be a time set aside for Confession at the following times: **Dunvant:** Monday 22nd December 11am until 12 Noon - with Canon Michael Flook and Father John **Sketty:** Monday 22nd December 6pm until 7pm - with Father Martin Donnelly and Father John *Father John is usually available for Confession before or after all weekend Masses, or by appointment.*  
Guide for confession: The American Catholic Church website has some good examinations of conscience, to help prepare for going to confession on the link below, or type in "usccb examination of conscience"  
[www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience)

**Religious Christmas Cards:** Box of 18 cards for £5. Still some boxes left for sale! - in the gated room at the back of church in Sketty (mind the step), and in the side-chapel in Dunvant.

**St Benedict's sound system:** Vaughan Sound engineers came back last week and have installed a new radio mic for the priest. This should address some recent issues of sound feedback from the speakers, and should make things sound clearer in the church. The last job for them to do is to fix a clamp mic to the pulpit.

**St Benedict's Church Hall:** This week I have filled a 63-wheelbarrow skip with jumble from the Hall. What didn't fit in I have taken to the tip. Once I receive the recent survey report, I will work on getting the Hall up to the statutory standard for parish use only (tea and coffee after Mass, etc.)

**Father John Polite Request:** Recent blood tests have shown that I almost type-2 diabetic. I would like to reverse this if I possibly can through lifestyle changes. With this in mind, it would be good for me not to receive too many sweet or alcoholic gifts this Christmas, as sometimes the temptation is hard to resist if it's in the house! I thank you for your understanding... and I hope you don't mind me saying.

**Parish income for the month of November (5 Sundays):** *Printed next week when bank statements received*

## Sunday Homily

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks to a people who had nearly lost everything: their kingdom had fallen, their leaders had failed, their future was uncertain, and the line of King David seemed destined to end. And yet Isaiah gives a promise: "A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse." A stump is something cut down - what remains when life has been chopped away. But God says: even there, new life can emerge.

Many of us know what "stumps" look like: The remains of broken relationships. Plans that never materialised. Dreams that collapsed. Spiritual dryness. Losses and disappointments. Habits that feel impossible to overcome. And yet God's word speaks the same truth today: Life can grow out of what looks dead. Grace can flourish where nothing seems possible.

And then Isaiah paints that extraordinary scene: Wolves and lambs together. Cows and bears grazing side by side. A child playing near a serpent's den without fear. It is a poetic image, yes - but it is not fantasy. It is God's vision for creation under Christ's reign. It reveals that the world God desires is one not merely improved, but transformed.

With this in mind, we hear the Gospel and find John the Baptist standing in the wilderness: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." John's presence is not comfortable: he wears camel hair. He eats locusts. He speaks like a man on fire. And yet people flock to him. Why? Because when the world is empty, when sin burdens the soul, when life feels incomplete, truth - no matter how hard - becomes attractive. John is not offering mere information; he is announcing a summons: The Messiah is near; prepare your heart.

John rejects superficial religion. He challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees: "Do not presume to say, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" Faith cannot be inherited without conversion. Repentance cannot be outsourced. Holiness cannot be borrowed. John says what Advent teaches: God desires a pathway into our lives, and so we must clear the way. But what does repentance really mean? Repentance is not simply saying: "I made mistakes," "I should be better," or "Someday I will change." The word John uses literally means: to turn around, to change direction, to move towards God rather than away. And repentance bears fruit: visible mercy, changed priorities, healing, generosity, understanding, self-knowledge. Sometimes we confess our sins but continue as if nothing has changed. But John makes us stop and think - repentance should be followed by fruit.

In many ways Advent is a countdown to Christmas. But the Church's tradition has always treated Advent as a spiritual clearing out of the heart, and a renewal of Christian hope in God's promises. This is why John speaks urgently. Because Christ wants not just to arrive at Christmas in Bethlehem, he wants to arrive in my speech, my habits, my worldview, my wounds, my decisions.

So as we continue through Advent, this is the invitation: Prepare not only: our homes, the tree, the cards, the food. But the heart. Let God take the stumps of our life - and make them fruitful again. Let John's voice echo within us - "Repent, for the kingdom is near." Let Isaiah's vision fill us with hope - peace where there was conflict, new life where there was emptiness. And may Christ, when he comes, not find us merely waiting - but ready, changed, and bearing at least a little fruit. Come, Lord Jesus. Make us new. Amen.