



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 13th September 2026

Date	Service	Time	Church	Mass Intentions	Liturgical Notes
Sat 12 th Sept	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Christine Perry+	24 th Sun in OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Collette Hurley+	24 th Sun in OT
Sun 13 th Sept	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Jenny & Mike int.	24 th Sun in OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty	Fr Sean Clancy+	24 th Sun in OT
Mon 14 th Sept	In private	-	-	Pro Populo	
Tues 15 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Howard Fry+	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 16 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Clive Wilson int.	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
Thur 17 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Holy Souls+	St Hildegard
Fri 18 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Joan Curnock int.	
Sat 19 th Sept	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Vera John birthday int.	25 th Sun in OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Dawn and Gerry Shaw int.	25 th Sun in OT
Sun 20 th Sept	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Pat Hartnett+	25 th Sun in OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty	Barbara Mainwaring+	25 th Sun in OT

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

Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Rosary - Every Wednesday in October at St Benedict's

As October approaches, we are pleased to announce that Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Rosary will be held every Wednesday throughout the month, beginning on Wednesday 7 October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The church will be open from 7:00pm until 9:00pm, with Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Rosary from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, making it a beautiful opportunity for us as a parish community to come together in prayer, to spend time in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and to ask for the loving intercession of Our Blessed Mother. Everyone is warmly invited to join us. Whether you are able to attend each week or can only come occasionally, you will always be very welcome. We hope that these evenings will become a special time of prayer and reflection for our parish. If you would be willing to help lead the Rosary, including announcing the mysteries or sharing the accompanying Scripture readings, please speak to Alastair (07909 321 079) If you would like to attend, please register your interest by adding your name and contact details to the sign-up sheet available in the narthex of St Benedict's or in the porch of St Joachim & St Anne's. Let us come together throughout this special month to deepen our devotion to the Holy Rosary and to entrust our parish, our families and our wider community to the loving intercession of Mary, Our Blessed Mother. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us. God bless you all.

A Thank You to Our Altar Servers

Since February 2025, our altar servers at St Benedict's Parish, Sketty, have shown wonderful commitment and dedication to serving at the altar. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to each and every one of them for the time, effort and enthusiasm they continue to give to the life of our parish. It is truly amazing to see how confident and comfortable all our servers have become in their roles on the sanctuary. Over the past months, we have given them different responsibilities at each Mass, allowing them to develop their skills, grow in confidence and gain experience in the many different aspects of serving at the altar. Their commitment is a real joy to see, and both Father John and I are extremely grateful for all that they do. Their

presence and service contribute greatly to the reverence and beauty of our liturgy, and we are very proud of each of them.

Looking Ahead to Advent and Christmas

As we look towards Advent and the coming Christmas season, we are pleased to share that we will also be supporting our neighbouring parish of Dunvant over the Christmas period. This will give our altar servers the opportunity to continue developing their skills while supporting Father John and helping to bring the beauty and richness of the Christmas liturgy to St Joachim and St Anne's during this festive period. We look forward to sharing this special time together and continuing to encourage our young people in their important ministry of serving at the altar. Thank you to all our altar servers for your wonderful commitment and service. You are a very valued part of our parish family.

Message from Jenny and Mike Bickerstaff: Thank you to everyone who made our 60th wedding anniversary such a joyful celebration. We felt, and still do, overwhelmed by your kindness. Unforgettable! Jenny and Mike.

Congratulations: to Pat and Alan Brooks on their 60th wedding anniversary. They ask our prayers.

Sunday Homily There is something deeply human about keeping score. We keep score in all sorts of ways. We remember who helped us and who did not. We remember who was there for us and who let us down. We remember the sacrifices we have made and the sacrifices other people have failed to make. Sometimes we even keep score with God. We can think: *I have tried to be a good person. I have gone to Mass. I have said my prayers. I have tried to do the right thing. Surely God owes me something in return.* And when life becomes difficult, we can begin to wonder whether the score has somehow gone wrong. *After everything I have done, why is this happening to me?*

But today's readings challenge that way of thinking. The Psalm says: "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy." "He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults." That word "repay" is important. Because the Gospel is full of the language of debt. A servant owes his master not simply a huge debt; but effectively an impossible debt. There is no realistic prospect of ever paying it back. And that is precisely the point. Jesus is confronting the illusion that we can somehow settle our account with God. We sometimes imagine that our Catholic faith means accumulating enough credit. A good deed here. A prayer there. A Mass attended. A sin avoided. A good intention. And gradually we build up a kind of spiritual bank balance.

But the servant in the parable cannot pay his debt. And neither can we save ourselves. There is something about sin which goes deeper than individual mistakes. Sin damages our relationship with God, it damages our relationships with other people, and even with ourselves. And no amount of simply doing more good things can make us capable of saying to God, *There, now I have paid you back sufficiently.* Salvation is not a wage. It is a gift. That is why the master in the Gospel does something so unexpected. When the servant pleads for time, the master does not extend the deadline. He cancels the debt. That is what God's grace is like. And perhaps we find the idea of grace difficult because we are accustomed to earning things. We understand wages. We understand rewards. We understand consequences. But grace is different. Grace means that God's love is not a payment for good behaviour. God does not love us because we have performed well enough. He loves us first.

And that changes how we understand the Christian life. We do not come to Mass in order to persuade God to love us. We come because he already loves us. We do not pray in order to earn God's attention. We pray because he has already given us his attention. We do not do good works so that God will owe us salvation. We do good works because salvation has already begun to move us to be better people. If we believe everything is a transaction, then we naturally want to calculate what everyone owes us. But if we understand that we ourselves live by grace, the calculations begin to look rather different. We are no longer standing before God with a list of credits and debits. We are standing before a Father whose generosity is greater than anything we can earn.

And this is ultimately what Jesus reveals. The Cross is not God balancing the books. It is God giving himself. Christ did not come into the world because humanity has finally accumulated enough merit to deserve salvation. He came because God wishes to save us. The Cross is therefore the great revelation that God's generosity is greater than our sins. And that should change the way we look at our lives. Some of us are very good at remembering our sins. Years later, we can still remember something we said, something we did, someone we hurt. We carry it around as though we are still paying the debt. But the Psalm says: "As far as the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our transgressions."

Repentance matters. Taking responsibility matters. Making amends matters. But once we have honestly brought our sin before God, there comes a point when we must also learn to receive his mercy. Otherwise, we become so focused on our unworthiness that we forget God's generosity. Christianity begins with gift. We were loved before we were good. We were loved before we understood God. We were loved before we had done anything to deserve it. That is why the Christian life is fundamentally a response to grace. We are not trying to climb our way up to God. In Christ, God has already stooped down to us. So perhaps the question today's Gospel leaves us with is not, *"What do I owe God?"* But rather: *"What will I do with what God has given me?"* He has given us life. He has given us Christ. He has given us forgiveness. He has given us the promise of eternal life. And none of it can be repaid. The account cannot be balanced. And that is precisely the good news. God's love was never a debt we had to repay. It is a gift we are invited to receive.