



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 6th September 2026

Date	Service	Time	Church	Mass Intentions	Liturgical Notes
Sat 5 th Sept	Mass	4:00pm	Sketty	Clive Wilson 90 th birthday int. Joan Curnock int.	23 rd Sun in OT
	Mass	6:00pm	Dunvant	Mr Charles Livingstone int.	23 rd Sun in OT
Sun 6 th Sept	Mass	9:15am	Dunvant	Ann Gavin+	23 rd Sun in OT
	Mass	11:15am	Sketty	Fr Sean Clancy+	23 rd Sun in OT
Mon 7 th Sept	In private	-	-	Pro Populo	
Tues 8 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Deceased nuns and priests+	Birthday of BVM
Wed 9 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	Martina & Roger int.	
Thur 10 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Dunvant	Michael Waters+	
Fri 11 th Sept	Mass	10:00am	Sketty	J R +	
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	Private int. (AM)	24 th Sun in OT

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

Joint Parish Pilgrimage 2027

Prices for the dates requested for Fatima next Spring were very high. I will therefore be considering some alternative options.

Tuesday's Feast: The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Tuesday we celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We know very little about the circumstances of her birth, and perhaps that itself is worth reflecting upon. Mary's importance was not apparent at the beginning of her life. There was no great public event, no announcement to the world of what this child would one day become. Her life began quietly, as most lives do. Yet, in the providence of God, this ordinary beginning would lead eventually to the Incarnation of Christ. Mary's story reminds us that we rarely see the significance of a life while it is being lived. We see only the present moment, whereas God sees the whole of a person's life and its place within his purposes. We can therefore look at our own lives with a little more patience. Not everything has to make sense immediately, and not every moment needs to appear significant. Mary's birthday invites us simply to give thanks for her life and to remember that God's work is often taking place long before we recognise what he is doing.

We're hiring - Clergy Welfare Officer

The Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia is seeking a **Clergy Welfare Officer** to support priests approaching retirement, already retired, or on sick leave — helping with health, finance, housing and care needs. A rewarding part-time role for someone with a heart for pastoral care and experience in healthcare or social services. 14 hours per week | £32,000 pro rata. Closing date: 26th September 2026. For an information pack and application forms, or to ask a question, please email hr@cardiffmenevia.org.

World Youth Day 2027 - Seoul, Korea

Young adults aged 18–30 are invited to join the Emmaus Encounter pilgrimage to World Youth Day, taking place from 28th July to 9th August in Seoul, South Korea. The package includes airport transfers, bed & breakfast accommodation, 4 nights in the Diocese of Incheon and 7 nights in Seoul with access to all main WYD events, plus daily Mass and formation. Archbishop Mark will be accompanying the group throughout. The cost is £1,500 plus flight fare, with spaces limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To join or find out more, email wyd@cardiffmenevia.org, or call 02920 379490.

Sunday Homily

There is a line in today's second reading which, I think, deserves us to stop and think about: I prefer the old translation: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour." It sounds simple, obvious even. And yet, if we really take those words seriously, they are actually quite demanding. Because St Paul is not simply telling us to be nice to people. He is giving us a way of measuring our Christian lives.

Before we say something, we might ask: Will this hurt my neighbour? Before we do something, we might ask: Will this hurt my neighbour? Before we send that message, make that comment, spread that piece of gossip, lose our temper, hold on to a grudge, or deliberately exclude someone: Will this hurt my neighbour? And St Paul gives us the answer: love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour. The difficulty, of course, is that we can very easily convince ourselves that something is justified.

We can say, "Well, they deserved it." "They started it." "I was only telling the truth." "I was only making a joke." "They need to learn a lesson." "I have every right to be angry." And perhaps what we are saying is true. But Christianity asks us to go deeper than simply asking whether something is true or whether we have a right to say it. It asks us: Is it loving?

Because there are ways of telling the truth which heal, and there are ways of telling the truth which wound. There are ways of correcting someone which help them to grow, and ways of correcting someone which simply make them feel small. There are ways of confronting someone because we genuinely care about them, and ways of confronting someone because we want to win. The difference is love.

"Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour." Love changes the way we approach everything. Love does not mean pretending that wrong is right. Love does not mean allowing people to treat us badly. Love does not mean never challenging another person.

Sometimes love requires us to say something difficult. Sometimes love requires us to draw a boundary. Sometimes love requires us to tell somebody that what they are doing is wrong. But even when we have to say difficult things, the question remains: Am I doing this because I love this person, or because I want to hurt them?

And perhaps this is one of the other great challenges of being a Christian. It is relatively easy to love people who love us. It is relatively easy to be kind to people who are kind to us. It is relatively easy to forgive people when they recognise what they have done and say sorry.

But Christian love goes further. Christian love begins precisely where our natural instinct says, "I have had enough." It begins when we choose not to retaliate. When we refuse to humiliate. When we refuse to gossip. When we choose patience instead of anger. When we choose to see the person rather than simply the thing they have done.

And ultimately, of course, we can only do this because this is how Christ has loved us. We sometimes forget just how extraordinary Christian love really is. Jesus did not wait until we were perfect before he loved us. He did not wait until we had sorted ourselves out. He did not wait until we had earned his forgiveness. He loved us in our weakness, our sinfulness and our failure. And from the cross he prayed: "Father, forgive them." That is the standard of Christian love. Not simply: *I will be kind if you are kind to me*. Not simply: *I will forgive you if you deserve it*. But: I will try to love you because Christ has loved me.

Perhaps, then, St Paul gives us a very simple examination of conscience today. When I look at the people around me - my family, my friends, my colleagues, my neighbours, even the people I find difficult - can I honestly say that my presence in their lives makes it easier for them to know love? Or do my words and actions sometimes make their lives heavier? Do I bring peace or conflict? Do I build people up or knock them down? Do I hold grudges? Do I speak to people, or do I speak about them? Do I correct because I care, or because I want to prove myself right?

And perhaps most importantly: When I have to choose between being right and being loving, which do I choose? St Paul tells us: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour." It is a wonderfully simple sentence. But perhaps it is also a rule of life. May God give us the grace to love not merely in words, but in the difficult, practical choices of everyday life. And may we become the kind of people of whom it could be said: Because they loved me, they did not make my life more painful. Because they loved me, they helped me to become better. Because they loved me, I came to know something of the saving and healing love of Jesus Christ.