



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~


♦ St Francis Xavier's Belmont ♦ St Patrick's Swansea ♦ St Pius X Windale ♦

• TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C • 17 AUGUST 2025 •

Parish Presbytery

Parish Priest Fr Gerard Mackie PP
Postal Address PO Box 277
BELMONT NSW 2280
02 4945 1244
Phone
Email gem5403@gmail.com

Parish Office

Accounts and Administration Officer Mrs Liza Ruitenbach
Street Address 40 Ernest Street
BELMONT NSW 2280
Postal Address PO Box 277
BELMONT NSW 2280
02 4945 4402
Phone
Email elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Facebook  [Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish-East Lake Macquarie](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie-10554244421379/)
Webpage <https://mn.catholic.org.au/parish/jesus-the-good-shepherd-east-lake-macquarie/>

Columbarium All enquiries via Parish Office

Office Hours

Monday, 8:00AM to 1:00PM
Wednesday 8:00AM to 1:00PM
Thursday 8:00AM to 1:00PM

Schools

St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School Belmont

Principal Mrs Freda Pascoe
Street Address 42 Ernest Street
BELMONT NSW 2280
Postal Address PO Box 206
BELMONT NSW 2280
02 4945 2404
Phone
Email admin@belmont.catholic.edu.au
Website www.belmont.catholic.edu.au
OOSH <https://stnicholasoosh.org.au/belmont>

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Swansea

Principal Ms Lucy Harvey
Street Address 213 Northcote Avenue
SWANSEA NSW 2281
Postal Address PO Box 141
SWANSEA NSW 2281
02 4971 1560
Phone
Email admin@swansea.catholic.edu.au
Website www.swansea.catholic.edu.au

St Pius X Catholic Primary School Windale

Principal Mr Stephen Pryde
Street Address 2 Lake Street
WINDALE NSW 2306
Postal Address As above
Phone 02 4948 8467
Email admin@windale.catholic.edu.au
Website www.windale.catholic.edu.au

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Bishop Bishop Michael Kennedy
Street Address 841 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302
Postal Address PO Box 780
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
02 4979 1200
Phone
Email chancery@mn.catholic.org.au
Website www.mn.catholic.org.au

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekday Masses

Monday: 8:30AM Belmont
Tuesday: 8:30AM Windale
Wednesday: 8:30AM Swansea
Thursday: 8:30AM Belmont
Friday: **10:00AM Windale**
Saturday: 8:30AM Belmont

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00PM Swansea
Sunday: 7:30AM Windale
9:00AM Belmont

Live Stream

Our Mass continues to be livestreamed daily and available via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie-10554244421379/>.

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is prayed 15 minutes before our weekday Mass.

Rosary

We invite everyone to join in and pray the Rosary daily after the 8:30AM weekday Mass from Monday to Saturday. Rosary is also prayed on Saturdays prior to the Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Swansea. We commence forty (40) minutes before the Mass starting 5:20PM Summer and 4:20PM Winter.

Feast Days

17 Aug Saint Stephen of Hungary
19 Aug Saint John Eudes, Priest
20 Aug Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
21 Aug Saint Pius X, Pope
22 Aug The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The following information is to assist parishioners and visitors while attending Mass.

- ✓ **Physical distancing** is still appropriate.
- ✓ The wearing of a **face mask** can help protect you and those around you. Masks are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** helps to reduce the spread of viruses and is available.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Select your **bulletin** and please take it home with you afterwards. Bulletins are no longer re-used. **Children's worksheets** are now available.
- ✓ The **Sign of Peace** remains contactless except between those residing in the same household.
- ✓ The distribution of **Communion** during Mass. The **Communion host** can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. For the latter please, proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line. The **Precious Blood** is available to receive. A person with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID, or other viruses should not share the chalice with others.
- ✓ There are two (2) **collection plates** during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The **First** Collection supports all our Diocesan Priests, and the **Second** Collection supports our parish expenses.

Parish Office

When visiting the Parish Office:

- ✓ For your safety, use the footpath and **do not** walk across the garden.
- ✓ All on-site visitors are required to sign-in.
- ✓ Physical distancing is still appropriate when entering a building.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer and face masks are available if needed.

Sacraments

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email gem5403@gmail.com.

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick is available. See Fr Gerard

Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism enquiries are made via the Parish Office.

Baptism Preparation: The program is held every first Saturday of the month, except January, at 11:15AM in the Parish Hall at Belmont. Enrolment forms are available at each church or from the Parish Office. Our next meeting is on **Saturday 6 September 2025**. Bookings are essential.

Funerals

To organize a funeral please contact the Funeral Directors who will then contact the Parish Priest.

Columbarium

For an information contact the Parish Office.

Marriage

For all wedding enquiries or bookings, contact Fr Gerard.

Penance

The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is available.

Penance Times:

- Belmont: Saturday morning after Mass
(Be seated and wait in the pew in front of the organ)
- Swansea: Saturday evening before Mass
(Be seated in pew near confessional back of the church)

Children's Liturgy – Coming Soon!

SHARE THE NEWS JOIN US at St Francis Xavier Church Belmont for Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9:00AM Mass on the **third Sunday of every month**.

This child-centred liturgy offers a friendly, safe, and engaging space (in the church hall) where children can hear and reflect on the Gospel in a way that speaks to their hearts.

All children are warmly invited to participate – come and share in the joy of faith made simple and meaningful for our youngest parishioners.

Stay after Mass for a relaxed morning tea – a great chance to connect with fellow families and parishioners!

Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Sick: Therese Smith, Geoff Brown.

(Once the person is no longer in need of prayer, would you kindly inform the Parish Office)

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Dorothy Dunne, Kathleen Turnbull, James Turnbull.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. ☩ May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Mass Intentions for publication may be submitted on an envelope on the collection plate, or to the Parish Office by email, or by phone; by 9:00AM Wednesday each week ahead. **Envelopes are available at the church entrance.** Please write details clearly to avoid errors. A reminder that you need the permission of the person, or their family, to enable us to publish names.

Pope's Prayer Intentions

You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.
<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

August Intention is for Mutual Coexistence.

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

Safeguarding in Our Parish

Our Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Parish of Jesus, the Good Shepherd is committed to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available at the entrance to the Church. Our **Parish Promoters of Safeguarding** are all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Reflection

by Richard Leonard



In our desire to affirm that the scriptures are inspired, it can be easy to forget that they come out of the lived experience of a community of faith. Indeed, one of the things that is wonderful about our belief in God's revelation is that it occurs within human experience. Today's Gospel is an excellent example. Jesus predicts that one of the consequences of believing in him is that divisions will follow.

We can tell from the whole text of Luke's Gospel that these divisions were certainly a part of the earliest Christian community which wrote this book and that their faith in Christ led them to confront some very tough issues: how could Gentiles inherit the promises made to the Jews; why the rich members of the community had special responsibility to the poor; the centrality of forgiveness in the Christian life; and what leadership role women should have in the earliest Church. We know that fights over these issues and faith in Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah, divided families and villages, cities, nations and a religious tradition.

This gospel is both a stark reminder of the costs involved in following Jesus and a comfort to us in the church today. Sometimes we can domesticate the Christian community into a 'feel-good' society. Our religious words and actions, however, are always meant to have an edge; our faith should 'afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted'. If Christians at home, at work, in society and on the international stage just go along with what is trendy or current because we're frightened of conflict or because we want to be seen to be part of the crowd, then we are not worthy of this Gospel.

Sometimes when we hear Jesus use the metaphor of a blazing fire we can see a violent image, but I am not sure if it has to be exclusively interpreted this way. Fire is sometimes necessary and good to clear out the layers of undergrowth built up over time that smother the soil of a forest and prevent new growth. Fire is a beacon that gives guidance and attracts attention. A blazing fire can attract everyone to its light, warmth and power. So maybe this Gospel is a call to purge the weight of old growth that can stop fresh thinking. Maybe it gives guidance to us in the justice we are meant to live and the attention we must call to the needs of all God's children. And maybe it is a reminder that the life of our Christian community is meant to be attractive through its gentle power and warmth. If the price we pay for witnessing to any of these values is that we divide the crowd, so be it.

What's comforting about this gospel is that it recognises conflict as a necessary part of the Christian life. There are some who want to pretend that the followers of Jesus should never disagree with one another or with those outside the Church. Conflict in itself, Jesus teaches us today, is an element of our commitment to the kingdom of God. What marks out the way we should disagree with one another inside and outside the Church, however, is that it is conducted with charity, dignity, careful listening and compassion. Christians always look to put the best possible interpretation on the opinions of those with whom we disagree and to be reconciled to those we have hurt, to heal divisions where we can.

May this Eucharist give us the courage to divide the crowd for the right reasons. May we be a blazing fire that casts light on darkness where people are exploited and injustice smothers the growth Christ wants to see in the human family. No one promised us that Christian faith was ever going to be a picnic! © Richard Leonard SJ

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding via P 02 4979 1390 or

E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au.

For further information visit:

Website: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Facebook: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Complaints: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/>



Parish News

Welcome

We welcome new parishioners and visitors. We invite you to pick up and complete our 'New to the Parish?' flyer.

Bulletin Notices, Flyers and Posters

To avoid disappointment, all items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM on Wednesdays. A reminder that ALL posters, flyers, newsletters, etc, need to be submitted via the office.

Children's Worksheets

Each weekend there will be a new Children's Liturgy worksheet made available at the Church entrance. Please encourage our young ones to pick one up and participate.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

WELCOME AND JOIN US at St Francis Xavier Church Belmont for a special Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9:00AM Mass TODAY. This child-centred liturgy offers a friendly, safe, and engaging space (in the church hall) where children can hear and reflect on the Gospel in a way that speaks to their hearts. All children are warmly invited to participate – come and share in the joy of faith made simple and meaningful for our youngest parishioners. Stay after Mass for a relaxed morning tea – a great chance to connect with fellow families and parishioners!

Parish Morning Tea

Belmont - **JOIN IN** a morning tea **TODAY (17 August 2025)** at Belmont Hall after the 9:00AM Mass on the third Sunday of every month. All are welcome. Our next one will be on 21 September 2025. Enquiries: Jan M 0438 252 657.

Windale - **JOIN IN** a morning tea **NEXT SUNDAY** at Windale Hall after 7:30AM Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month. All are welcome. Our next one will be on **24 August 2025**. Enquiries: Sr Maria.

Sacramental Programmes for Children

The Sacramental Program for children to prepare for the Sacraments of First Penance (Confession), Confirmation and Holy Communion has now begun. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers

Parish Reflection Day - Save the Date

COMING SOON. Our 'Pilgrims of Hope Reflection Day' with Fr Kevin Dance CP will be held Tuesday **30 September 2025** from 9:00AM until 4:30PM at St Francis Xavier Church Hall. All are invited. Bring a friend. Bring your own lunch. Bring a donation. More information soon. See flyer for more.

75th Anniversary Celebration

St Francis Xavier's Primary School (formerly St Joseph's Primary School) Belmont would like to invite you to celebrate our 75th Anniversary of Catholic Education, on Friday **26 September 2025** commencing at 9:00AM with Welcome to Country on the playground prior to Mass at 9:30AM, followed by morning tea, school tours, open classrooms and other festivities.

Parish Social Justice Updates

The Parish's Social Justice Committee's international project is The House of Mercy, located in Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. The House of Mercy provides a sanctuary for people with a variety of needs; people without a place to call home, people fleeing domestic violence, people in need of a warm meal or a bed. Many of these people are disabled.

Today, the House of Mercy needs material support in order to continue supporting the patrons who use its service. With limited social services available elsewhere, this House provides not just shelter and food, but access to basic medical care, showers and laundry, and counselling.

Our support ensures the House of Mercy can provide practical support for people in need.

Please donate generously to our Social Justice boxes located at the entrances to our churches so that the important work of agencies like The House of Mercy can continue.

Additional news, Paul Coles has resigned as Chairperson and Mary Ryan has been elected as the new Chairperson.

Parish Groups and Teams

Breaking Open the Word

You are invited to join in on the first Thursday of the month (except January) after the 8:30AM Mass to reflect on the Sunday Gospel of the week. Reflective material is free. Morning tea afterwards. Our next group meets on Thursday 4 September 2025. No need to RSVP. Enquiries: Jan M 0438 252 657.

Choir

A choir has been formed to sing Latin Gregorian chant occasionally at the 9:00AM Mass at St Francis Xavier's Church, Belmont. If anyone has an interest in joining the choir, contact Andrew on M 0405 772 779.

Family Group Movement

The Passionist Family Groups provide an extended family for all who wish to belong. Everyone is welcome to join. Enquiries: John and Pauline via P 02 4946 7460 or E mcgraths_12@hotmail.com.

Friendship Group

The next Friendship Group for singles lunch will be held on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 12:00PM at the Orana Hotel, Pacific Highway Blacksmiths. RSVP before 5:00PM on Thursday 4/9/2025 by contacting Mary on M 0408 498 898. Newcomers are welcome.

Social Justice Committee

Our Social Justice Committee is calling for new members. We meet three to four times a year. If you'd like to join or learn more, contact Mary R M 0402 498 898 Paul C M 0418 240 604.

St Patricks Craft Group

Our parish craft group gathers weekly in the Swansea Church Hall at 9:30AM on Mondays, except January. All welcome. Enquiries: Gay M 0419 211 573.

St Vincent de Paul

To enquire or join one of our Parish Conferences, contact one of the presidents. Belmont - John D M 0424 695 721, Swansea - Anne H M 0439 814 874, Windale - Paul C M 0418240604.

Diocesan News

Praise and Worship

MacKillop Parish warmly invites your community to join our next Praise & Worship event on Sunday, 24 August, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, from 2:30PM to 4:30PM. This free event will be a joyful time of prayer, music, and fellowship - an ideal opportunity for anyone seeking to deepen their faith and connect with others across the diocese. Please note that an adult must supervise all children under 16.

Formation Day - The Christian's Final Journey

ACU's Professor Clare Johnson will lead a formation and professional learning program around Catholic burial and cremation practices, how to support those who grieve, and includes an opportunity to prepare a Catholic funeral for yourself or another person.

When: 2 September 2025 9:00AM – 5:00PM (register 8:30AM)

Where: St Mary MacKillop Parish Hall 7 Milson Street Charlestown

Cost: \$60 per person (includes tea/coffee, lunch and a workbook) \$120 per person for funeral directors (includes tea/coffee, lunch, a workbook and five years' certification)

Enquiries: 02 9701 4751 or CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au

Registration: acu.edu.au/pastoral-formation-funerals by 28/8/2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading

Jer 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay.

Second Reading

Heb 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running

steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them and they follow me.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Lk 12:49-53

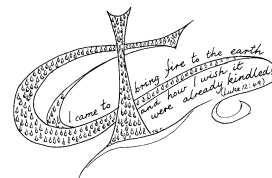
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Communion Antiphon

Ps 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.



Next Week's Readings

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading:	Is 66:18-21
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15
Second Reading:	Heb 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel Acclamation:	Jn 14:6
Gospel:	Lk 13:22-30