



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~





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

• NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR C • 10 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/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie)
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
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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekday Masses

Monday: 8:30AM Belmont
Tuesday: 8:30AM Windale
Wednesday: 8:30AM Swansea
Thursday: 8:30AM Belmont
5:00PM Swansea ASSUMPTION VIGIL
Friday: **8:30AM Windale ASSUMPTION MASS**
10:00AM Belmont ASSUMPTION MASS
Saturday: 8:30AM Belmont

Sunday Mass Times

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

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

9 August Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr
11 August Saint Clare, Virgin
12 August Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
13 August Saints Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
14 August Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
15 August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Week's Readings

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading: Jer 38:4-6. 8-10
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14
Second Reading: Heb 12:1-4
Gospel Acclamation: Jn 10:27
Gospel: Lk 12:49-53

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.

Prayer

Caritas Australia - Prayer for Gaza

Caritas invites us to light a candle and pray for the people of Gaza:

*God of light,
You meet us in the darkest places.
Every year, when we light our Easter candle,
we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'
We pray today that all people may work with you
to dispel the darkness of violence and war.
May this fragile light be a sign of our hope
for the people of Gaza.
May they find healing and lasting peace.
Amen.*



Gaza Emergency Appeal

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, water, and shelter.

Help families in Gaza today.

If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at <http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza> or phone 1800 024 413 or use QR code



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: Canice (Ken) Watt.

Anniversaries: Warren Bailey, George and Doris Stanton.

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



As offensive as the Monty Python film, *The Life of Brian* was to some Christians, the scene in which several competing messiahs try to convince the market-place crowd that they are the real thing, brilliantly and humorously captures Jewish expectations in 1st century Palestine. Not unlike the fervour at the end of the last millennium, some religious people believed the end of time was close at hand. Far from selling his messianic wares at the market, however, Jesus crept in beside us and lived, suffered, died and was raised from the tomb in a way no one anticipated. Even after his resurrection the earliest Christians believed Jesus would return very soon, so they could afford to live as if they were, literally, in the last days. When this didn't happen there was crisis in the community. The earliest disciples, to whom much had been entrusted, had to hand on a faith in a more unpredictable God who does not fulfil all our expectations or run to our timetable.

Luke points out that the greatest gift we Christians have received is knowing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. What a relief to know we do not have to shop around anymore. From everyone to whom much has been given, however, much will be required and so knowing who Jesus is only goes halfway. Living out the reality of the Christian life is the other half. Today's Gospel teaches us that our Christian life should be marked by five characteristics, that we: willingly share with those in need; are ready to act justly; stay alert to the presence of God in the world; guard against those people or things that can rob us of our faith; not abuse others but live in peace. With or without a sense that Jesus is due back at any minute, the Christian life is meant to focus on the essentials.

Two thousand years later we are still waiting for Jesus' return and many of us live complicated lives that rob us of true happiness. Sadly, it often takes a tragedy for us to reassess what we have been given. A student at the Columbine High School, who was injured in the shooting, wrote this sombre reappraisal of how he sees the world and what he thinks we should be passing on to the next generation:

'The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less.

'We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but less solutions; more medicine, but less health.

'We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our value; we talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

'We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet our neighbour. We've conquered outer space; not inner space, we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice. We have higher incomes, but lower morale; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

'These are the times of tall men (sic), and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic violence; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

'These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes. It is a time when there is so much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom.'

We all know the world is not quite so neat, not so either/or, but these words focus the question well enough: what are the essentials of our life, or as Jesus puts it, what is our treasure and where is our heart?

© 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.

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/>.

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.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August) is a Holy Day of Obligation, observed each year, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. A collection will be taken up during these Masses. Mass times:

Thursday 14 August: 5:00PM Swansea (Vigil)
Friday 15 August: 8:30AM Windale
10:00AM Belmont

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

JOIN US at St Francis Xavier Church Belmont for a special Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9:00AM Mass on Sunday, **17 August**. 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 at Belmont Hall after the 9:00AM Mass on the third Sunday of every month. All are welcome. Our next one will be on **17 August 2025**. Enquiries: Jan M 0438 252 657.

Windale - **JOIN IN** a morning tea 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.

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 Update

Our parish's Social Justice Committee (SJC) thanks all parishioners who have donated to our projects over the past financial year. The SJC supports three projects on your behalf:

1. The House of Mercy, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
2. Santa Teresa Mission, Northern Territory
3. Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle St Vincent de Paul Society

During the Financial Year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 your generous donations allowed for the following distribution of funds:

1. \$3,519 to The House of Mercy
2. \$3,519 to Santa Teresa Mission
3. \$1,759 to St Vincent de Paul

The parish is on track to donate a total of \$10,000 over three years to The House of Mercy and this is year one of the three year period. Overall, the parish donated a total of \$8,798. Well done and again thank you.

Please continue to make generous donation to the SJC boxes at the entrances to our three churches.

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.

Liturgical Life of the Church: Celebrating Revelation

All with an interest and desire to learn more about liturgy are invited to join the final unit of the Christian Formation Course 2025. Explore and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy over two consecutive Saturdays with Sr Louise Gannon & Fr Andrew Doohan.

When: 16 & 23 August 2025 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Where: Toohey Room - 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West

For more information and to register visit - <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/the-liturgical-life-of-the-church-celebrating-revelation/>

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. It will facilitate a conversation between clergy and funeral directors, incorporating problem-solving, sharing experiences, and identifying best practice for Catholic funerals informed by expert advice.

Session 1: Dying, death and rites for the journey to new life

Session 2: Planning your funeral and care of the grieving

Session 3a: Celebrating the Order of Christian Funerals

Session 3b: Clergy and funeral directors working cooperatively

Session 4: Do's and don'ts of Catholic funerals: identifying best practice

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

Jubilee News

<https://nce.catholic.org.au/events/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope>

28 July - 3 August

[Jubilee of Youth](#)

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 73:20,19,22,23

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading

Wis 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you.

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that,
once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in,
they would joyfully take courage.
This was the expectation of your people,
the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies;
for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes
you made us glorious by calling us to you.
The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret
and this divine pact they struck with one accord:
that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike;
and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.



Second Reading

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland.

They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

See that you are prepared.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 147:12,14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

