



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

• THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD • YEAR B • 12 MAY 2024 •

Parish Presbytery

Parish Priest: Fr Gerard Mackie PP
Postal Address: PO Box 277
BELMONT NSW 2280
Presbytery Phone: 02 4945 1244

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
Office Phone: 02 4945 4402
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)
Parish Webpage: Please use QR Code to access parish webpage at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au>
Columbarium: All enquiries via Parish Office



Office Hours

Monday: 8:00AM to 3:30PM
Wednesday: 8:00AM to 4:30PM
Thursday: 11:30AM to 4:30PM

Schools

St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School Belmont

Principal: Mrs Danielle Reed
Street Address: 42 Ernest Street
BELMONT NSW 2280
Postal Address: PO Box 206
BELMONT NSW 2280
Phone: 02 4945 2404
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
Phone: 02 4971 1560
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
Phone Number: 02 4979 1200
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: 8:30AM Swansea
Saturday: 8:30AM Belmont

Sunday Masses

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

Rosary

We invite everyone to join in and pray the Rosary daily after the 8:30AM weekday Mass from Monday to Saturday.

Feast Days

14 May Saint Matthias, Apostle
19 May Pentecost
29 Jun Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles
3 Jul Saint Thomas, Apostle
22 Jul Saint Mary Magdalene
25 Jul Saint James, Apostle

Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The parish continues to follow relevant health advice. The following information is provided so that parishioners and visitors may know what to expect while attending Mass.

- ✓ NSW Health still recommends **physical distancing**.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** is recommended and provided.
- ✓ The wearing of a face **mask** can help protect you and those around you. Masks are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ Pick up your **bulletin** and take it home with you afterwards. Bulletins are no longer re-used.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Select your **seat** and allow space between families / households.
- ✓ **Singing** is permissible.
- ✓ Parishes can now use liturgical ministers - **readers, servers, etc.**
- ✓ **Procession of Gifts** may take place as directed by our Priest.
- ✓ The **Sign of Peace** remains contactless except between those residing in the same household.
- ✓ The distribution of **Communion** during Mass continues to present a risk. Please maintain a single line. In general, two (2) ministers (including the Priest) are adequate to distribute the Lord's Body.
 - The **Communion host** can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. Since the latter is deemed high risk, please proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line.
 - The **Precious Blood** is restricted to Priests only.
- ✓ The **collection plate** has resumed during Mass. Thank you for your continued support.
 - First Collection supports all our Diocesan Priests.
 - Second Collection supports our parish operating costs.
- ✓ **Exit** whilst maintaining physical distancing.

Parish Office

When visiting the Parish Office:

- ✓ For your safety, use the footpath and **do not** walk through the garden.
- ✓ All on-site visitors are required to sign-in.
- ✓ NSW Health still recommends physical distancing be maintained if entering a building.
- ✓ Please use hand sanitizer. Face masks are available if needed.

Please do not visit if you are unwell. We can assist you by post, phone, or email during normal office hours.

A Mothers' Day Prayer

*Loving God, we pray:
for new mothers, coming to terms with
new responsibility;
for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
for those who struggle to balance the tasks of
work and family;
for those who are unable to feed their children
due to poverty;
for those whose children have physical, mental or
emotional disabilities;
for those who raise children on their own;
for those who have lost a child;
for those who care for the children of others;
for those whose children have left home;
and for those whose desire to be a mother has not
been fulfilled.*

*Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and
tender,
and that they may lead their children to know and
do what is good,
living not for themselves alone,
but for God and for others.
Amen.*

Original Source of this prayer is unknown



Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Sick: Therese Smith, Geoff Brown, John and Joan Swift, Baby Carter McGie, Elaine Toohey.

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Maria Ee, Pam McEnearney (and stillborn baby daughter), David McEnearney, Fr Jack McEnearney, Michael Haggerty, Zelma Dick.

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.



Intentions

Pope Francis' Prayer

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/>

May is for the Formation of Religious and Seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

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

Aren't we lucky we don't take the Scriptures literally? If we did it would appear from today's Gospel that only multilingual, snake-wrangling, poison-drinking exorcists, with a gift for healing, would be seen as the genuine Christian article. That would leave most of us out in the cold.

This passage, however, is a dramatic addition to Mark's Gospel to show that even though Jesus is now at the right hand of God, he sends his disciples out to the whole world to carry on his ministry, and that he will protect us when trials come. And even though there have been tragic and shocking chapters in our 2,000 year history, it's good for us to remember what God has done in and through us as we have gone out and proclaimed the saving love of Christ. Today 33% of the world's population are, at least nominally, Christian, numbering 2.1 billion people, making us the largest religion in the world. Our Catholic family accounts for just over half this group. We have around 1.1 billion Catholic brothers and sisters worldwide. Many Christians continue to be persecuted or discriminated for their faith, and some continue to die for their love of Christ which impels them to seek justice for all.

But the feast of the Ascension is not just an opportunity for us to look back on how we have tried to fulfil the command of the Lord to go out to the world. Indeed, this feast is primarily focused on where we are going from here on in. The Ascension promises us that just as the Father raised Jesus from the dead, so too the Father, Son and Spirit will welcome us into heaven as well, to be at Christ's right hand for eternity. This parable demonstrates the point.

In 1939 a father and son were famous art collectors. When World War II broke out, the son volunteered. In 1944 the son died in battle while rescuing another soldier. A year later, a young man came to see the father. 'Sir, you don't know me but I was with your son when he died. I want you to know he didn't suffer.'

'I know you both loved art, and though this isn't much, I want you to have it.' He gave the father a package. Inside was a portrait of the son. It was rough work, but the father welled up with tears. 'It was the least I could do for your son because he saved my life.'

A few months later, the father died. At the art auction which followed, investors gathered from around the world. The first item up for bid was the portrait of the son.

The auctioneer tried to start the bidding, '\$200 ... \$100 ... Any bids? Any at all?' The investors called out, 'Skip this one. Where are the Rembrandts?' Just then a man spoke up from the back. 'I'll give you ten dollars for the painting. It's all the money I have.' It was the gardener at the father's estate. So the auctioneer brought down his gavel. 'Sold for ten dollars!' An investor called back, 'Can we now get on with it?'

But the auctioneer continued, 'The auction is over. According to the will, whoever bought this painting would inherit the estate, including all the art.'

No matter what they said the wealthy investors couldn't buy their way into the inheritance. Only the one who had the eyes of love, and knew what he was looking at, inherited everything the Father and Son had to offer.

May we go out from this Feast of the Ascension so confident of our spiritual inheritance to come, that we lavish its riches on all we meet right now. Because when it comes to Christ's kingdom, there's plenty for everyone. © 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

The Holy Rosary

During the month of May we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Copies of 'The Holy Rosary' leaflets are available** from the Church entrance or the Parish Office.

Welcome

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

Live Stream

Our Parish Mass continues to be livestreamed. This means the Mass is recorded and available via [Facebook](#).

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email [Fr Gerard](mailto:Fr.Gerard).

Bulletin Notices

All items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM Wednesday.

Sacramental Program

CONFIRMATION will be celebrated in our Parish on Tuesday 4 June at 5:00PM at St Francis Xavier Church. For those children who have participated in our First Penance programme this year or before, the preparation meetings are at Belmont on Thursdays 9 May, 16 May and 23 May at 6:30PM. Please be on time and bring your copies of Youcat for Kids with you.

St Patrick's Craft Biggest Morning Tea

A morning tea will be held at Swansea Church Hall on Monday 20 May from 10:00AM until 12:00PM. All are welcome. Entry is by donation. Raffle and lucky door prizes. Three (3) prizes and tickets are \$1.00 each - drawn on 20/5/24. Please bring a plate. Enquiries Gay 0419 211 573.

Morning Tea

Our next morning tea at Belmont will be held on Sunday 19 May 2024 after 9:00AM Mass. Enquiries: Jan M 0438 252 657. A donation of white mugs has been made.

Breaking Open the Word

Our next meeting date is Thursday 6 June after morning Mass in the church hall. All are welcome to come and reflect on the Gospel of the week. Reflective material is free. A cuppa is available afterwards.

Volunteer Needed

We need one or more volunteers to assist with the cleaning of St Pius X Church Windale on a weekly basis, usually on a Friday at 10:00AM. Contact the office if you are interested.

Parish Insurance

Our thanks to our Diocese who is generously covering \$27,106.10 (80% discount) of this year's \$33,833.10 parish insurance (2023-2024). We have now paid the balance of \$6,776.62. We have been advised that our insurance for 2024-2025 will be over \$34k and covered by the parish. A special thank you to parishioners who contributed towards this bill. We still owe for Volunteer Insurance 2022-2023.

Windale Convent

Our Convent at Windale is currently undergoing repairs to the interior. Cost is estimated at \$5,000.

Social Justice Collection

The amount collected during April totalled \$670.25.

2025 Planned Giving Envelopes

New Planned Giving Envelopes will be prepared soon. Please complete your white card located as an insert on 1/4/2024 in your current pack and place it on the second collection plate with your nominated church for picking up your new 2025 pack. Thank you to all who contribute to the parish financial well-being via collection plates and/or direct debit and credit card.

Diocesan News

Christian Formation Course

Expressions of Interest for 2024/2025 Christian Formation Course are now open. Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

✓The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units

✓All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

✓become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith

✓grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey

✓realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community

✓be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community

✓grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 23 July, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. To find out more, go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

Sacred@Seven with Gen Bryant

From leading music ministry in her local parish, to performing for Pope Francis at World Youth Day, Genevieve Bryant is a much sought-after music minister and guest speaker who travels around Australia and the world, spreading the love of God through her gift of music. Gen is joining us to share her amazing story and to encourage us all to step out in faith and to use the gifts that we have been given to impact this world. Gen and her band members will also be leading the music ministry at Sacred@Seven.

When: Wednesday 15 May 2024 - 6:30PM - Gen Bryant Talk (Stepping out in Faith - Using your gifts). From 7:30PM to 8:30PM - Sacred@Seven - Fr Anthony Coloma (Praise and Worship, Testimony, Scripture, Preaching and Adoration)

Where: Toohey Room next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West 2303

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/bs1TRP7CCN>

Catholic Schools

2025 Enrolments

Parents considering a Catholic school for their children are invited to complete an online enrolment application. All schools now have an Online Now Enrolment link added to their website. Alternatively, go to <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/families-communities/how-to-enrol-in-a-catholic-school/enrolment-pack/>

Enrolment Timeline:

✓ **1 March 2024:** Enrolment period opens.

✓ **24 May 2024:** Initial enrolment period closes (all applications must be entered into the Compass module, submitted and completed by this date to be considered for the initial outcome notification).

✓ **24 May 2024:** Applications submitted after this date are only considered if there are available places (after initial enrolment offers) and on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the school and Principal.

✓ **14 June 2024:** Initial enrolment outcome notification - Letter of Enrolment Offer or Waitlist.

✓ **1 July 2024:** Initial enrolment offer acceptances due.

Please note: Slightly different enrolment dates apply to the Diocese's inner-city secondary schools: St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton, St Pius X High School, Adamstown and San Clemente Catholic College, Mayfield.

The Ascension of the Lord Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, *clap your hands*,
cry to God with *shouts of joy!*
For the Lord, the Most High, *we must fear*,
great king over *all the earth*.
2. God goes up with *shouts of joy*,
the Lord goes up with *trumpet blast*.
Sing praise for *God, sing praise*,
sing praise to our *king, sing praise*.
3. God is king of *all the earth*.
Sing praise with *all your skill*.
God is king *over the nations*,
God reigns on his *holy throne*.



Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20



Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all people *my gospel*.

I am with you always, until the end *of the world*.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.

'And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Next Week's Readings

Pentecost Sunday Year B

First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Sequence	
Gospel Acclamation	
Gospel	John 20:19-23