



# JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER · YEAR A · 30 APRIL 2023 ·

## Parish Presbytery

**Parish Priest:** Fr Gerard Mackie PP  
**Parish Deacon:** Dcn Solomon Okovido  
**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](mailto: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:** 2:00PM to 4:30PM  
**Thursday:** 11:30AM to 4:30PM

## Schools

### St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School Belmont

**Principal:** Mrs Sonya Boslem  
**Street Address:** 42 Ernest Street  
BELMONT NSW 2280  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 206  
BELMONT NSW 2280  
**Phone:** 02 4945 2404  
**Fax:** 02 4945 8095  
**Email:** [admin@belmont.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@belmont.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website:** [www.belmont.catholic.edu.au](http://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  
**Fax:** 02 4972 0123  
**Email:** [admin@swansea.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@swansea.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website:** [www.swansea.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:admin@windale.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website:** [www.windale.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:chancery@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://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

## Feast Days

3 May: Saints Philip and James, Apostles  
28 May: Pentecost Sunday  
31 May: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
4 Jun: The Most Holy Trinity  
11 Jun: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
16 Jun: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
24 Jun: The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist  
29 Jun: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles  
3 Jul: Saint Thomas, Apostle

## Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The parish continues to follow relevant advice from NSW Health and the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. There is a continuing need to **remain vigilant** and **focused** on the safety and wellbeing of the community. The following information is provided so that parishioners and visitors may know what to expect while attending Mass and feel confident in doing so.

- ✓ NSW Health still recommends **1.5m physical distancing** be maintained.
- ✓ The wearing of **masks** in places of worship is not mandatory. Where maintaining physical distancing indoors is particularly challenging, wearing masks is encouraged by NSW health. For your convenience, masks are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** is recommended and provided.
- ✓ **Bulletins** are not handed out. Please pick up your own and take it home with you afterwards..... **DO NOT RETURN IT.**
- ✓ **Holy Water** is now available and needs to be changed regularly.
- ✓ Select your **seat** and allow 1.5m between families / households.
- ✓ **Singing** is permissible within places of public worship. It is advisable to refrain from handing out **hymnals**.
- ✓ 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 high risk. In general, two (2) ministers (including the Priest) are adequate to distribute the Lord's Body. Please maintain a single line.
  - The **Communion host** can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. Since the latter is still 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 the 1.5 metres physical distancing.

## Rosary

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

## Sacraments

The parish continues its commitment to providing a safe environment. The following information offers guidelines around Sacraments.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Masses with the Anointing of the Sick resume this year.

1514 The Anointing of the Sick "is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived."

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

**Baptism:** The Sacrament of Baptism can be celebrated; however, in the current circumstances Baptism can only be celebrated by the pouring of water and not by immersion. Baptism enquiries may be made via the Presbytery or 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 May 2023. Bookings are essential.

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

**Columbarium:** For an information handout 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
- Swansea: Saturday evening before Mass

**Parish Sacramental Program:** The program for Confession is for children in Year 2 upwards, and the programs for Holy Communion and Confirmation are for children in Year 3 upward. For enquiries email [elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au).

## Safeguarding

### Our Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the Church.

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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au).

**Promoters of Safeguarding:** Our Parish Promoters of Safeguarding are all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

**For further information visit:**

Website: [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

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

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

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday 30 April 2023 is World Day of Prayer for Vocation also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.



## The Holy Rosary

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



## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA



This is 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and a particular focus taken today is leadership. Which voices do we follow? Why do we follow these voices and not others? Authentic leadership is rooted in authority, and authentic authority is the ability to author or bring life to birth. Genuine authority cherishes, guards and encourages the best in life; it provides rest and refreshment; it guides our steps; it nourishes us; it leads us to God. Peter is an example of authentic authority: he proclaims the truth, even if others find it hard to hear; he denounces error, even when this places him in jeopardy; he calls for a change of heart, even when it makes great demands.

Authentic leadership is patterned after the leadership of Jesus. It is gentle and familiar, like the true shepherd; it has won the confidence of those who follow, as did the true shepherd; it is committed to the enhancement of the lives of others, as was Jesus. Authentic leadership is willing to forgo its own needs and to deny its own interests in favour of the needs and interests of others.

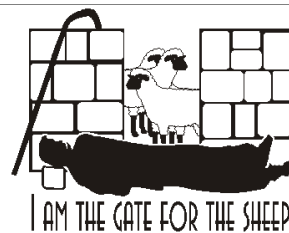
Heavy demands are placed on those who follow authentic leadership. Those who follow the Good Shepherd must follow him in the dark valleys as well as to the refreshing streams. They must be willing to relinquish some of their own plans and self-determination and entrust themselves to his leadership. They must never forget that they are following a shepherd who has paid the ultimate price on their behalf. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages and Literature from St Louis University. Amongst other things, she served as President of Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-2001) and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several other universities. She was an active member of the Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue (1988-2017) and sat on the editorial boards of The Bible Today (1979-2005), Biblical Theology Bulletin (1990-2014), Catholic Biblical Quarterly (1992-2001), New Theology Review (1997-2003), Teaching Theology and Religion (2003-2005), and Chicago Studies (2003-2009). She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and abroad and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.

## Intentions

### A Vocation View

This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into the Harvest." For more information regarding Vocations see Fr Gerard or E [vocations@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@mn.catholic.org.au)



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2023

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. 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/>

### For a Culture of Peace and Non Violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

## Prayer Requests

### Please pray for

**Sick:** Baby Carter McGie, Elaine Toohey.

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Wilma Butler, T M Sebastian.



*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.

## Parish News

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

**Live Stream:** Mass continues to be livestreamed. This means the Mass is recorded and available via [Facebook](#).

**Thinking of becoming Catholic?** See or email [Fr Gerard](#).

**Parish Office:** The office will be closed for half of the day on Wednesday 3 May due to a meeting regarding the upcoming parish Safeguarding Audits. The office will re-open from 2:00PM.

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

**Aurora Magazine:** The LATEST edition is now available at the church entrances. FREE. Pick up one for a friend.

**New Volunteers:** Anyone interested in joining our parish volunteers in Ministry please contact the office for more information.

**Mother's Day Raffle:** St Patrick's Craft Mother's Day Raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend for \$1.00 a ticket, drawn on 8 May 2023. Six Prizes and proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

**Project Compassion:** Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2023. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. [Our parish Project Compassion closes today](#). To date a total of \$2,441.45 has been raised and forwarded to Caritas on your behalf. Visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

**Social Justice Collection:** The total collected last week was \$306.95.

**Holy Land Collection:** A further \$85.00 has been banked towards the Good Friday Collection, now totalling \$135.00.

## Parish Groups and Committees

**Family Group News:** The (PFGM) Passionist Family Group Movement will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday 7 May 2023. Family Groups were established at St Francis Xavier Belmont in 1991. We will celebrate by attending the 9:00AM Mass at Belmont on the Sunday 7 May followed by morning tea in our Parish Hall. All are invited to attend.

Enquiries: John & Pauline E: [mcgraths\\_12@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgraths_12@hotmail.com) or M 0418 482 568.

**Friendship Group for Singles:** The next lunch will be held on Sunday 7 May 12:00PM at Valentine Bowling Club. RSVP before 5:00PM Thursday 4 May by ringing Mary on M 0408 498 898 or P 02 4972 0030.

**Social Justice Committee:** Our Social Justice Committee is calling for new members. If you'd like to join or learn more, please contact Paul via 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 join one of our Parish Conferences contact one of the presidents listed below.

Belmont	Paul	0418 240 604
Swansea	Anne	0439 814 874
Windale	Brian	0407 125 338

## Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

**Catholic School Open Days:** If you're interested in enrolling your child at a Catholic School for 2024, you should attend one of our open days. Visit [www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/](http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/) for more information.

**Diocesan Association of Pastoral Ministers Meeting:** The 2023 Diocesan Association of Pastoral Ministers will next meet on Thursday 18 May from 9:30AM - 2:30PM at The Corcoran Centre, Immaculate Conception Church, Morpeth. The gathering is to support those commissioned in parishes or the life of the Diocese for Pastoral Ministries. All are welcome to join as we break open the Foundation of Worship and Prayer with Sr Louise Gannon sj. Mass will be celebrated with Fr John Vo, followed by a shared lunch. To register, please contact Kate on P: 4979 1329 or E: [kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au) by Thursday 12 May 2023.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Open Day and other opportunities:** On Sunday 21 May there will be an Open Day at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Tighes Hill. From 10:00AM to 3:00PM, you can visit the church and its grounds.

On the same day, the Community Garden will also be open. From 10:00AM you're invited to come along, visit the garden, and paint some plant pots.

At 12:00PM the church will Angelus and pray with Mary for world peace before there is a free Sausage Sizzle from 1:00PM sponsored by the Catholic Community Fund. Contact Lawrie on 0419 447 217 for more information.

Later in the day, there will also be an Interfaith Service for Creation at 3:00PM followed by afternoon tea. Contact John on M 0400 171 602 for more information.

## Other

**ACU Centre for Liturgy - Public Lecture 8 May 2023:** Australian Catholic University is offering another wonderful opportunity for us to learn and think more deeply about liturgy. Who are we? What does theology have to do with it? And do our liturgies and rituals need to adapt or resist these changes? You are invited to think about registering at [www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecfi](http://www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecfi).

**Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter (FISH) fundraiser:** On Friday 12 May you're invited to join FISH on Awabakal Land for a High Tea to raise funds for their services. It's a chance to be inspired by stories of resilience and examples of leadership that are disrupting and challenging child protection policy and practice throughout Australia and around the world. Tickets are \$90 each and the event will go from 11:00AM to 1:30PM. For more info, email [fundraisingforfish@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisingforfish@gmail.com). To book your ticket, visit [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/fish-fundraising-high-tea-tickets-594153066817](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/fish-fundraising-high-tea-tickets-594153066817)

**Palms Australia - Mission: Transform Lives:** Communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Explore 35 positions by visiting: [www.palms.org.au/current-opportunities/](http://www.palms.org.au/current-opportunities/). On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. For more information, call 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

**'Anointed': Missionaries of God's Love Sisters Pentecost Retreat Intensive, 24-28 May:** Join us for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville. More information and register: [www.trybooking.com/CFBRE](http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRE)

**Divine Retreat Centre:** For more information, visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org)

## Next Week's Readings

### Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

First Reading:	Acts 6:1-7
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22
Second Reading:	1 Pt 2:4-9
Gospel Acclamation:	Jn 14:6
Gospel:	Jn 14:1-12

**First Reading**

Acts 2:14. 36-41

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

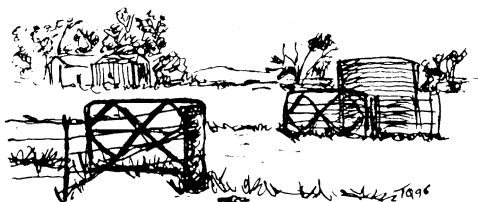
**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.



**Second Reading**

1 Pt 2:20-25

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel**

Jn 10:1-10

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:  
'I tell you most solemnly,  
I am the gate of the sheepfold.  
All others who have come  
are thieves and brigands;  
but the sheep took no notice of them.  
I am the gate.  
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:  
he will go freely in and out  
and be sure of finding pasture.  
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come so that they may have life  
and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.