



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · YEAR C · 19 JANUARY 2025 ·

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

The Office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 3- 5 hours – subject to change.

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: **NO MASS**
Tuesday: 8:30AM Belmont
Wednesday: **NO MASS**
Thursday: 8:30AM Belmont
Friday: **NO MASS**
Saturday: 8:30AM Belmont

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6:00PM Swansea
Sunday: 7:30AM Windale
9:00AM Belmont

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is normally prayed 15 minutes before our weekday Masses.

Rosary

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

Feast Days

21 Jan St Agnes
24 Jan St Francis de Sales
25 Jan THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

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 provided.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Pick up your **bulletin** and take it home with you afterwards. Bulletins are no longer re-used.
- ✓ **Singing** is permissible.
- ✓ Parishes can use liturgical ministers - **readers, servers, etc.**
- ✓ **Procession of Gifts** may take place.
- ✓ 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 pleases, proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line. The **Precious Blood** is now available for all to receive. Kindly remember that a person with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID, or other virus should not share the chalice with others.
- ✓ The **collection plate** has resumed during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The First Collection supports all our Diocesan Priests, and the Second Collection supports our parish operating costs.

Bulletin Notices

To avoid disappointment, all items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM on Wednesday.

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.
- ✓ Physical distancing is still appropriate when entering a building.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer and face masks are available if needed.

We can assist you by post, phone, or email during office hours.

Sacraments

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email [Fr Gerard](mailto:Fr.Gerard@mn.catholic.org.au).

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick is available. See Fr Gerard

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 7 December 2024. 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
- Swansea: Saturday evening before Mass

Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Sick: Therese Smith, Geoff Brown, Baby Carter McGie.

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

Recently Deceased: Catherine Beezley.

Anniversaries: Lynette Coulter.

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 Francis' 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/>

January Intention is FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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



Church architecture often tells in stone the story of theology. By the ninth century as Christian Churches in Europe became longer and higher, a shift was occurring in theology as well. Coinciding with the engineering abilities of the builders, theologians reinstated a more severe and distant theology about God. God was 'immortal, invisible, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes'. Jesus had ascended his regal home in the tabernacle which over the centuries got further and further away from where the people stood or sat.

One of the extraordinary things that occurs in the layout of Churches of this time is that as the tabernacle goes back, the Marian altar comes forward, often half way down the church where people could have easy access to it.

Today's Gospel was used as the justification for this theological and architectural movement. Mary is seen to intercede on behalf of the bride and groom and ask Jesus to do what he can. This is the first sign in the Gospel of John and Jesus is reluctant to perform it, but because his mother asks, he does it.

The changing of the water into wine is not just a sign that Mary and Jesus like a good party! It is a sign of the Kingdom of God where joy and life are in abundance, where shame ends and all tears are wiped away. It is no accident that in John's gospel the mother of Jesus is present at this first sign and remains faithful until the end, right up to the culmination of all the signs: his being lifted up on the cross. Mary not only asks for a sign, she understands that it will cost something for Jesus to give it and for her to witness it.

So for us, the wedding feast at Cana is a taste of the fullness of life we celebrate here every Sunday. The Eucharist is always and everywhere a first course in the eternal banquet of heaven. But it is also an invitation to see beyond the signs, to the faithful relationships that require sacrificial love and years of fidelity.

All parents who sacrifice so much for their children, all spouses who remain faithful and good to their wife or husband, all friends who attend to their companions with devotion and care, share in the Kingdom of God and are the signs of Christ's presence in our world. Every time we are kind, Cana occurs again.

Sometimes these actions can be very lonely and the cost can be high. Today's Gospel, and the traditions of the Church that flow from it, tell us we are not alone, especially when the going gets tough.

What I like best about our belief in intercessory prayer, in the healthiest devotions in honour of the Mother of Jesus and in our belief in the martyrs and the saints is that they take seriously the companionship of God's family that transcends time and space.

Through our common Christian faith we are connected to millions of believers who have battled with similar, and sometimes greater, struggles than we endure and yet remained faithful to the end. Led by Mary, who never wants us to feel ashamed or embarrassed, they are our cheer squad in the stands of heaven willing us on in the race of life, giving us a few pointers on the best preparation, the pitfalls on the way and how to maximise our performance as we strive to do our best and be our best.

Welcome to Cana where one course is richer than the last. And the wine only gets better with age. © 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 Parish Mass continues to be livestreamed. This means the Mass is recorded and available via [Facebook](#).



Join us for Morning Tea

Visitors and parishioners.

Join us for morning tea in the Belmont Church Hall after 9:00AM Mass today

Windale (4th Sunday of every month) - Join in a morning tea at Windale Hall after 7:30AM Mass on **Sunday 26 January 2025**. All are welcome. Enquiries: Sr Maria.

Parish Bulletin

If you wish to receive the Parish Bulletin weekly by email, please subscribe via elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Catholic Weekly

Available at the church entrance - \$2.00.

Aurora Magazine

Copies of the SUMMER edition now available and are FREE.

Parish Groups and Committees

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 6 February 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 – married, single or divorced, young, old or in-between. There is a giving and receiving by all members of the group to each other. 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 2 February 2025 at 12:00PM at the Orana Hotel, Pacific Highway. RSVP before 5:00PM on Thursday 30/1/2025 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 Paul via 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. Resumes **Monday 3 February 2025**. All welcome. Enquiries Gay M 419 211 573.

St Vincent de Paul

To enquire or join one of our Parish Conferences, contact one of the presidents. Belmont - John 0424 695 721, Swansea- Anne 0439 814 874, Windale - Brian 0407 125 338.

Diocesan News

Diocesan Resource Centre February Events

The Formation Film Between Two Worlds.

In "Between Two Worlds," Marianne (Juliette Binoche) finds work as a cleaner, enduring tough conditions and long hours. However, she's actually a journalist undercover, wanting to write about the hidden crisis of unemployment experienced by those in precarious jobs. The film explores themes of inequality and the discomfort of Marianne's quest to understand those she portrays, highlighting her separation from their reality despite good intentions. Lunch, coffee & tea provided.

When: 1 February 2025 at 11:00AM | Where: Diocesan Resource Centre, corner of Tudor & Parry Streets Newcastle West.

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/uiiDmzEAil> or call Mary O'Connor on M 0409 033 449

Other News

Pray for Mary MacKillop Today Notice

Mary MacKillop Today supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

Please pray for Mary MacKillop Today especially during the challenging times we all face, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vitals works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.

If you'd like to learn about Mary MacKillop Today please contact us via P 02 8912 2763 or E hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au or visit www.marymackilloptoday.org.au

Jubilee News

Pilgrims of Hope Significance of the Logo



The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Peregrinantes in Spem (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.

Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

Join us on the morning of Sunday 2 March 2025, when as a Local Church, celebrate the Jubilee Year with a Diocesan pilgrimage from Nobby's Beach to Sacred Heart Cathedral, culminating in Mass and a Festival in the Cathedral precinct grounds.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.
The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.
Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 7-10. R. v.3

(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1. O sing a new song *to the Lord*,
sing to the Lord *all the earth*.
O sing to the Lord, *bless his name*.
2. Proclaim his help *day by day*,
Tell among the *nations his glory*
and his wonders among *all the peoples*.
3. Give the Lord, you *families of peoples*,
give the Lord *glory and power*,
give the Lord the glory *of his name*.
4. Worship the Lord *in his temple*.
O earth, tremble *before him*.
Proclaim to the nations: '*God is King*.'
He will judge the *peoples in fairness*.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given

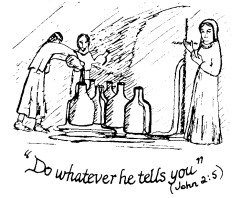
by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
God has called us *with the gospel*
to share in the glory of our Lord *Jesus Christ*.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel

John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The first of the signs given by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

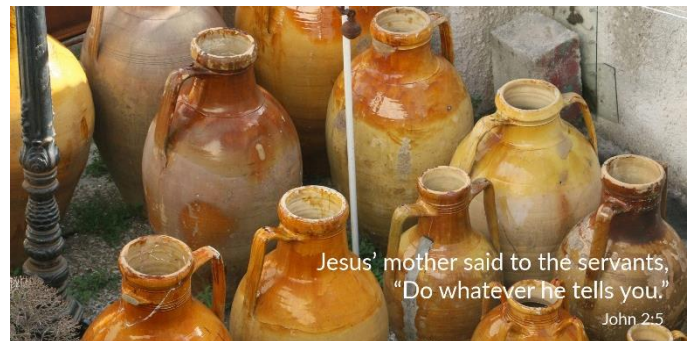
This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 22:5

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading	Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Gospel Acclamation	See Luke 4:18
Gospel	Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21