



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · YEAR A · 2 AUGUST 2026 ·

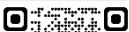
Parish Presbytery

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

Phone 02 4945 4402
Email elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Facebook  <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie-10554244421379/>

Webpage  <https://mn.catholic.org.au/parish/jesus-the-good-shepherd-east-lake-macquarie/>

Columbarium All enquiries via Parish Office

Office Hours

Monday 8:30AM to 1:30PM
Wednesday 8:30AM to 1:30PM
Thursday 8:30AM to 1:30PM

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
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 02 4979 1200
Email chancery@mn.catholic.org.au
Website www.mn.catholic.org.au

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekday Mass Times

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 Mass Times

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

Live Stream

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

Feast Days

3 Aug Saint Dominic, Priest
4 Aug Saint John Vianney, Priest
5 Aug The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major
6 Aug The Transfiguration of the Lord
7 Aug Saint Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs
Saint Cajetan, Priest
8 Aug Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop), Virgin

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is prayed 15 minutes before our weekday Mass.

Rosary

We invite everyone to 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, commencing forty (40) minutes before the Mass, starting 5:20PM Summer and 4:20PM Winter.

Votive Candles

Burning votive candles is a common sight in Catholic churches. The light signifies our prayer offered in faith entering the light of God. All are welcome to light candles. Gold coin donations. All proceeds support the Parish.

Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The following information is to assist parishioners and visitors:

- ✓ **Face masks** are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** is available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Please **take your bulletin home** with you after Mass.
- ✓ A selection of **Children's worksheets** is available for children.
- ✓ The **Sign of Peace** remains contactless except between those residing in the same household.
- ✓ The **Communion Host** can be received in the hand, or on the tongue with care. For the latter, proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line.
- ✓ The **Precious Blood** can be received. A person with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID, or other viruses should not share the chalice with others. Intinction is only for priests.
- ✓ There are **two (2) collection plates** during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The following option is available:
 - The **First Collection** supports Diocesan **Clergy**:
Account name: ELM Parish
Reference: <your name>
BSB: 066-739 Account Number: 100005583
 - The **Second Collection** supports our **Parish**:
Account Name: ELM Parish
Reference: <your name>
BSB: 066-739 Account Number: 100005586



Sacraments

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email gcm5403@gmail.com.

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick is available. See Fr Gerard.

Baptism

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

Baptism Preparation: The program is held every first Saturday of the month, except January, at 11:15AM in the Parish Hall at Belmont. Enrolment forms are available at each church or from the Parish Office. Our next session is on **Saturday 5 September 2026**. Bookings are essential.

Funerals

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

Columbarium

For an information contact the Parish Office.

Marriage

For all wedding enquiries or bookings, contact Fr Gerard.

Penance

The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is available.

Penance Times:

Belmont: Saturday morning after Mass
(Be seated and wait in the pew in front of the organ)

Swansea: Saturday evening before Mass
(Be seated in pew near confessional back of the church)

Children's Liturgy

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: Marlene O'Neill, Laura Langan, Geoff Brown.

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Canice (Ken) Watt.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. ✠ May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, though the mercy of God, 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's Intention For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

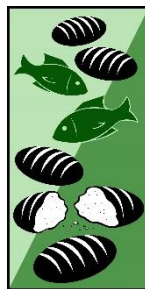
Safeguarding in Our Parish

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 Greg Sunter



The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the theme that runs throughout today's readings: The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs. The compassion of God is foremost in these readings – recognising need within the people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of leftovers.

As it became late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away to the nearby villages so that they could buy food for themselves. But Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. He knows that as it is now evening they probably won't be allowed to enter any of the local villages and, even if they were, they probably didn't have money with which to buy food. So it is compassionate care that moves Jesus to act. Remember, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the evening he went one step further in his compassion and made sure that all were fed.

At the time of writing, the gospel writer knew that his audience would be familiar with the Eucharistic meal. The words and actions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the events of the Last Supper: he took the bread and fish, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples to distribute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last Supper.

Scriptural context – Food for all

This miraculous feeding is the first of two such accounts in the gospel of Matthew. (It also appears twice in Mark and once in both Luke and John.) In this account, there are twelve baskets of leftovers. These baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel. It is a metaphor for Jesus as the one who provides nourishment and satisfaction for the entire Jewish population. The imagery in the second story (Mt 15:32-39) emphasises that Jesus also feeds and satisfies the gentile people. Between them, the two accounts present Jesus as the one who provides spiritual food for all.

Living the Gospel – Grieving John

The passage begins with Jesus receiving the news that his cousin, John the Baptist's death. In response, Jesus immediately withdraws to a lonely place where he can be alone with his disciples. His response to this terrible news is to take time out. He wants to go away to a quiet, lonely place to pray and grieve. He doesn't just take the news in his stride and carry on regardless; he steps back from the busy-ness of life to mourn. It's a lesson for us in times of stress and grief: the response Jesus models is to take time to grieve the loss.

Different View – A different miracle

A very different interpretation of this miraculous feeding suggests that what Jesus did was actually shame people into pulling out from under their cloaks the little bits of food that each of them were carrying. The scripture tells us that the event takes place in a 'lonely place'. People didn't tend to travel very far at all from home without taking with them a bit of food. This interpretation suggests that by his own generosity and willingness to share what little he had, Jesus shamed the crowd into sharing their own morsels of food and produce enough to feed the multitude that were gathered there. © Greg Sunter

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 Office

When visiting the Parish Office, use the footpath and **not** walk across the garden. On-site visitors are all required to sign-in. Hand sanitizer and face masks are available if needed.

Parish News

Welcome

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

***** Decorating Our Space *****

Over the last two years our Parish has won two \$500 prizes for its creative works in the Decorate Your Space competition. We invite our Craft Group, and any other talents in the parish, to make a submission again this year. For more information contact Nicki 0417 773 444 or see the Diocesan News section.

Children's Worksheets

Each weekend there is a new Children's Liturgy worksheet available at the Church entrance, and some old ones too.

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:

Friday 14 August: 6:00PM Swansea (Vigil)
Saturday 15 August: 9:00AM Belmont

Parish Social Event - Save the Date

Please save the date, Tuesday 3 November, Melbourne Cup Day, for our next parish get together. More information soon.

Thank you

The St Vincent de Paul Society thanks all parishioners of Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish who donated to the Vinnies Winter Appeal. From our three worshipping communities a total of \$5,333 was donated which will go towards assisting vulnerable people. Vinnies thanks you.

Diocesan News

*** Get Involved in 'Decorate Your Space!' ***

Parish communities are again invited to decorate a space that uniquely reflects their commitment to children's safety and wellbeing in line with the theme of National Child Protection Week **'Every Conversation Matters, Shifting Conversation to Action'**, for the chance to win some fantastic prizes. Information on entry requirements and inspiration from last year is available <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/decorate-your-space-returns-in-2026/>. Entries close 12:00PM Monday 14 September 2026.

2026 Magdalene Awards

Congratulations to Meryl McCokser for winning the Bi-annual 2026 Diocesan Magdalene Award. A worthy recipient, Meryl is a parishioner at St Paul's Gateshead and regularly volunteers at the Stella Maris Seafarer Centre in Wickham each week. A full list of nominees and images can be found on the Diocesan website via <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/recognising-women-in-our-church/>

Anointing Mass

There will be an Anointing Mass held at St Joseph's Church Toronto on Thursday 20 August 2026 at 11:00AM.

Calling for Expressions of Interest – Councils and Advisory Boards

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle warmly invites you to once again journey with us in faith, open dialogue and discernment as we continue to establish and strengthen our new Councils and Advisory Boards.

Following our initial Expressions of Interest process last year, we are now seeking to fill some vacancies on our Councils and Advisory Boards as we build on the strong foundation.

This next phase is an opportunity to broaden participation and ensure our governance reflects the diversity and rich gifts of our diocesan community. Our renewed governance model honours both civil and Church law, and is grounded in the mission and teachings of the Church.

The Councils and Advisory Boards that have formed play an important role in shaping the future of our Diocese, contributing to decisions that support faithful, sustainable and mission-driven outcomes. Already our Pastoral Council has been discerning our call to mission. Read more here <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/diocesan-pastoral-council-discerns-our-call-to-mission/>

We invite people from across the Diocese who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website <https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/> and QR Code.



In particular, opportunities exist for those with backgrounds in Governance, Finance and Banking. We are also seeking new members for our Community and Wellbeing, Catholic Community Fund and Education boards.

These groups work in a synodal way marked by collaboration, respectful listening and thoughtful conversation.

Join with us - this is a unique opportunity to share your gifts, deepen your engagement in the life of the Church and help shape the path ahead for our Diocese.

Other

Hunter Peace Group 2026 Hiroshima Day Commemoration

When: Saturday 8 August, 11:00AM -1:00PM

Where: Tighes Hill Peace Park (opposite Tighes Hill TAFE College, Maitland Road)

Speakers: Bevan Ramsden, Doug Hewitt and Alison Harwood.

Entertainment: Newcastle People's Chorus and Matthew & Cathy. Food will be available.

For more information: contact Hunter Peace Group via E hunterpeacegroup.2016@gmail.com or telephone Lynda 02 495 9346 or M 0476 884 200

The Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Saturday 8 August.

For the full Feast Day program and more information, contact ministries@mmp.org.au or visit www.marymackillopplace.org.au

"Though our crosses and sorrows are in a manner great, our own dear Lord's love is much greater." Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1871)

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 69:2,6

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:
Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts.

Second Reading

Romans 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *They all ate and were satisfied.*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Wisdom 16:20

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

OR John 6:35

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.



Next Week's Readings

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading	1 Kings 19:9.11-13
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8
Second Reading	Romans 9:1-5
Gospel Acclamation	Psalm 129:5
Gospel	Matthew 14:22-33