



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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


• PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD YEAR C 13 APRIL 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>

All enquiries via Parish Office

Columbarium

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
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 – refer to the ...



Sunday Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00PM Swansea Palm Sunday Vigil 13/4/25
6:00PM Swansea EASTER VIGIL 19/4/25
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

17 Apr: Mass of the Lord's Supper
18 Apr: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
20 Apr: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Holy Week

The Triduum is the most important time of our Church's Year.

Palm Sunday: Thank you to our talented parishioners who made our palm crosses for us.

Chrism Mass: The Chrism Mass will take place in Holy Week on Tuesday 15 April at 7:00PM in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton. Refreshments to follow. All welcome.

Holy Thursday: Project Compassion boxes can be returned from Holy Thursday until closing date 31 May 2025. Any contributions after this date can be made directly to Caritas Australia.

Good Friday: Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL 97, 1251f).

Holy Places: A collection for the Holy Places will take place at the Way of the Cross and at the Solemn Ceremonies. The collection helps support the Sacred Places in the Holy Land.

E admin@franciscans.org.au Electronic transfers can be made to:

Account Name: Holy Land Commissariat

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

BSB / Account Number: 062 267 / 1001 4847

Your Reference: CDMN Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish NSW

Easter Dues: From Palm Sunday Easter offering envelopes are available on the church pews. This supports our diocesan clergy. Kindly place envelopes on the 1st Collection plate. Thank you for your ongoing support. Electronic transfers can be made via CCF online: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/parishdiocesan-payments/>

Pastoral Note: In Australia Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Parish Social Justice

"Our parish, through the Social Justice Committee and your donations, supports three projects:

1. International: House of Mercy, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
2. National: Santa Teresa Mission, Northern Territory
3. Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle St Vincent de Paul Society
4. The funds for both the international and national projects are managed by Catholic Mission.

It is a little-known fact that in 1822 a young laywoman in France began Catholic Mission, which is the Australian arm of the International Pontifical Missionary Societies.

Pauline Jaricot had a passion for the missionary work of the church, but unable to leave home herself, encouraged her friends, mainly young female factory workers to form "circles-of-10". Each person in the circle gave a small, regular contribution from their wage and each "circle" committed to pray regularly for the missionary work of the church. Within her lifetime this movement called the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was supporting the worldwide work of missionaries where the need was greatest.

Catholic Mission continues to make a positive difference in the lives of thousands of people around the world through its support of missionaries and the child-focused community-development programs it undertakes.

Currently our parish, this Financial Year, has donated **\$2,184** to each of our international and national projects, and **\$1,092** to Vinnies.

Please donate generously to our projects by placing gold coins in the Social Justice Collection boxes in our three (3) churches."



Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Sick: Canice (Ken) Watt, Therese Smith, Geoff Brown, Carter McGie.

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Frank Faber.

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/>

April Intention is FOR THE USE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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.

Caritas Reflection

Isaiah 50:4-7 | Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R. v.2 | Philippians 2:6-11 | Luke 22:14 - 23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Today we read The Passion narrative from the Gospel of St Luke. It is not by any means for the fainthearted. Even if it is familiar to us, we should try to remember how extraordinary it is.

After so many centuries of cruelty, crucifixion still ranks as one of the most appalling things people have ever thought to do to their fellow humans. Yet this was how God chose to show the depth of his love. God was prepared to go to any lengths for us. The letter to the Philippians says that Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave. Why? The only possible explanation is love. Anyone who has loved another knows that it will inevitably bring a share of suffering. Jesus walks alongside all who suffer. He shares their cross as they share his.

The fact that crucifixion was so common in the Roman world should also make us pause for a moment. Jesus lived and died in a world in which people were routinely degraded. He met plenty of them in his travels, people cast by the wayside, and helped many. For those without power, life was fragile, even cheap. Has much changed? Throughout Lent, Caritas Australia has invited us to share the work of Project Compassion. The stories we have encountered remind us that the world is still an uneven field. Project Compassion invites us to respond in love to free people in captivity to very challenging circumstances. It invites us in a small way to carry the cross, to live in hope of the Resurrection.

Perhaps this week, as well as joining in the services of Holy Week, we can take some time to sit quietly with The Passion narrative from Luke's Gospel on our own. Think about all the characters we meet: Peter, Judas, Pilate, Herod, the women of Jerusalem, Simon of Cyrene, the soldiers, the two criminals, the women from Galilee, the centurion, Joseph of Arimathea. Try to see the events from each of their perspectives. Then quietly see them from your own perspective, from your world in 2025. Pray in humble gratitude.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

As Project Compassion 2025 draws to a close for another year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support throughout this Lenten Season.

This year, we shared the inspiring stories of 3 individuals whose lives have been transformed through your compassion and generosity.

But the work isn't done yet. There is still time to donate! Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty* and help transform lives this Lent. You can support Project Compassion 2025 via:

- the donation boxes
- by scanning the QR code
- phoning 1800 024 413
- online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion



UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent



Thank you, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

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 recorded livestream and available via [Facebook](#).

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email [Fr Gerard](#).

Swansea Mass Times

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass is 5:00PM on 12/4/2025

Easter Vigil Mass time is 6:00PM on 19/4/2025

Saturday Vigil Mass time is 5:00PM from 26/4/2025

Bulletin Notices

To avoid disappointment, all items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM on **Monday 14/4/2025**.

Lenten Book 2025

LAST CHANCE to get your copy of the Lenten Book. Copies can be purchased from Belmont Sacristan Joan. Cost is \$7.00.

PARISH CUPPA TEAS

Join us for our April cuppa teas



Belmont 13/4/2025 - Palm Sunday
Swansea 26/4/2025 - ANZAC weekend
Windale 27/4/2025 - ANZAC weekend

Easter Holy Water

During the Easter season, Catholics often take blessed "Easter water" from church to bless their homes, symbolizing renewal and protection. You are invited to bring a small, clean, bottle, to collect some Easter Holy Water after the Easter Ceremonies. For everyone's wellbeing, kindly use the jug provided to fill your vessel.

Volunteer Ministries

New volunteers are welcome at any time to contact the Parish Office and register. Most, but not all, Church ministries require a simple paper registration. Other Ministries require an online registration with the Diocese. Ministries involving children and/or vulnerable people will require a Working with Children Check at no cost to the volunteer. Collectors and counters require an online National Police Check, also at no cost. Thank you to all our volunteers who continue to be committed to their Ministries and our Parish.

St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society Australia has released its 2025 Federal Election Statement, Justice and Compassion. May we ask all those interested in a fairer Australia to read the Society's Statement and raise these issues with your local candidates. The statement and further information is available on the Society's website <https://vinnies.org.au>

Diocesan News

New Look Diocesan Website

Over the past nine months, the Diocesan Communications team has been working closely with the Bishop's Office and the Mission and Evangelisation Team to develop a fresh new website, that will be bright, colourful and interactive, allowing people to engage with the Church and the broader Diocesan community. A particular focus has been on the importance of directing people who access the website to the right point of connection for what they are seeking, with an emphasis on connecting them with their local Parish community. The new website was launched on Monday, and we hope it will be fruitful in helping people to find the point of contact that they need. Some of the key features and benefits of the new website are:

- ✓ Enhanced user experience with a modern, intuitive interface
- ✓ Improved accessibility and mobile responsiveness
- ✓ Easier access to information through clearer navigation
- ✓ Strengthened security and data protection measures

Dio website: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/>

Jubilee Year 2025

Pilgrimage Sites Our Jubilee Year is now well underway. It started with an incredible Pilgrimage of Hope from Nobby's Beach to Sacred Heart Cathedral where we celebrated Mass before enjoying a fun festival full of family activities. Now, we invite you to journey beyond and go on our Pilgrimage through our Diocese! Our eight sites are open and ready for you. Please visit these Churches during the times attached or visit the link: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/about/jubilee-year-2025/>

Other News

Caritas – Urgent Earthquake Appeal

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. To donate online go to: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/myanmar-earthquake/myanmar-earthquake/>

Caritas Australia is the international aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia and are endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (ABN 90 970 605 069) with charity status. Caritas Australia is accredited by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing Australia's aid program.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops more than ten years ago. Run over three days, the festival provides young people from all across Australia with the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is excited to be hosting ACYF from 30 November – 2 December 2025 and is looking forward to welcoming thousands of young people to Melbourne.

To find out more about the Festival, including any general inquiries, reach out to the Festival team on:

T: 03 7064 3995 E: acyf@cam.org.au

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OR SERVICE	CHURCH	
Monday	14 April 2025	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Tuesday	15 April 2025	7:00PM	Chrism Mass	Sacred Heart Cathedral	HAMILTON
Wednesday	16 April 2025	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Thursday	17 April 2025	7:00PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
Friday	18 April 2025	10:00AM	Way of the Cross	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		3:00PM	Friday of the Passion of the Lord	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Saturday	19 April 2025	9:30AM	Morning Prayer	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		6:00PM	Mass - Easter Vigil	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Sunday	20 April 2025	As normal	Mass - Easter Sunday	As normal	

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Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH, FROM THE CHURCH ENTRY

The Procession

19: 28-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" Year C

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village opposite, whereon entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this, "The Lord has need of it"'. So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it'.

And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying,

'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!'

And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples'. He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Jn 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading

Is 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

2. Many dogs have surr~~ounded~~ me,

a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet

I can count every one of my bones.

3. They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,

my strength, make haste to help me!

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren

and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;

all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him Israel's sons.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Second Reading

Phil 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

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Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

REFER TO SEPARATE PEOPLE'S READING LEAFLET, OR POWERPOINT, FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD YEAR C

Communion Antiphon

Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

