



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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


• FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • YEAR C • 18 MAY 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

Office Hours

Monday 8:00AM to 1:00PM
Wednesday 8:00AM to 1:00PM
Thursday **CLOSED**

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

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 Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00PM Swansea
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

20 May Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest
21 May Saint Christopher Magallanes Priest, Companions, Martyrs
22 May Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious
26 May Saint Philip Neri, Priest

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 available.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Select your **bulletin** and please 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 please, 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 viruses 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.

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.

Pope Leo XIV

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle joins the global Catholic community in welcoming Pope Leo XIV.

Bishop Michael Kennedy said the election of a new Pope is always a moment of great significance and hope for Catholics and people of good will around the world.

"We give thanks to God for guiding the Church through this time of transition, and we place our trust in the Holy Spirit and the conclave's decision," Bishop Kennedy said.

"We look forward with confidence to his leadership and the ways in which he will be witness to the Gospel in today's world. Leading the universal Church is an immense responsibility and as a Diocese, we pray he is given wisdom, courage and grace as he navigates the path ahead."

An excerpt from the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle website

A Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

O God, who chose your servant Leo XIV
in succession to the Apostle Peter
as shepherd of the whole flock,
look favourably on the supplications of your people
and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth,
he may confirm his brothers and sisters
and that the whole Church may be in communion with him
in the bond of unity, love, and peace,
that in you, the shepherd of souls,
all may know the truth and attain life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen

Text from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Sick: Patricia Flannery, 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: Cliff Lorimer.

Anniversaries:

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/>

May Intention is FOR WORKING CONDITIONS

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

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

The word love has to be the most misused word in our language. We often say we love our house, our car, our holiday or even ice cream. Then we use exactly the same word to describe our feelings for our spouse, family, friends or children. If language is a window into meaning, then we are in strife at the loose way we transfer the same word for vastly different feelings and realities. At least I hope we feel differently about people over possessions. The way some people go on about their car, pets or money we begin to wonder.



The love Jesus encourages us to have in today's Gospel is a very particular love. He tells us not just to love one another, but to 'love as I have loved you'. The core of Jesus' love for us is sacrificial love, where he laid down his life that we might live. While love is a popular word, and even more popular notion, in our music, film, art and literature, sacrificial love is not something we hear much about these days or that we embrace very easily. Loving someone in the popular imagination has come to mean hanging in there until someone better comes along, or we grow bored of each other sexually or personally. Often it entails keeping the exit door on commitment nice and handy for the quick get away. But this hardly describes a love that involves sacrifice.

Sacrificial love is demonstrated in deeds not words. It states that there is no point in saying we love anyone unless our actions follow the profession we make. Sacrificial love is not just about warm and fuzzy feelings; it is an intensely practical affair where our love is judged by our gentleness, kindness and patience with each other. Christian love is not arrogant or rude, it does not drag other people down, but rejoices and weeps when others are successful or downhearted. Loving as Jesus has loved means telling the truth with compassion, forgiving, working at trust and holding on to faith in the face of difficult times. Jesus does not promise us that this commandment is easy, just necessary if we are to love as he loves us.

While sacrificial love demands of us that we die unto self, Jesus never asked us to 'kill' ourselves. The distinction matters. All too often the Church has been guilty of giving out this teaching in a way that people thought they should put up with violent, undignified and soul-destroying behaviour from their spouse, children, parents, family or friends. Sacrificial love is never destructive. It is a free gift where we sometimes forego other options, opportunities and even good things for a love and life that is even better. The Lord laid down his life for us and in turn the Father raised him up to a glorified life. What's true for him is true for us. We lay down our lives for each other so we can take up a new and richer life. We are never meant to destroy ourselves or stay in relationships that rip our dignity from us. Sometimes the most Christian thing we can do is to set up boundaries or make decisions that protect ourselves from behaviour which is neither loving nor Christian.

May this Eucharist then grant us the wisdom to love people and not things. May it help us embrace sacrifice in a way that leads to life and may it give courage to sort out the relationships that affirm our dignity and help us grow in faith, hope and love.

© 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 Office.

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](#).

Bulletin Notices, Flyers and Posters

To avoid disappointment, all items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM on Wednesdays. Posters and flyers all need to come via the office.

Parish Office

Please note the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday 22 May 2025. Please have your bulletin notices in early.



PARISH MORNING TEAS

Join us for our May cuppa teas

Belmont 18/5/2025 & Windale 25/5/2025

Parishioners and visitors are all welcome.

75th Anniversary Celebration

Save the Date – Friday 26 September 2025. St Francis Xavier's Primary School Belmont (formerly St Joseph's Primary School). More information will be available soon.

Vinnies Lunch Fundraiser

Guest speaker local Barrister, Round the world Yachtsman Michael Graham. Proceeds to the Vinnies "Winter Appeal". Held at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club 3 Ada Street Belmont on Thursday 29 May at 12:00PM-2:00PM \$60pp includes 2 course set menu. To purchase tickets, call Sam 0434 947 423

Parish Pilgrimage

Join us for a Parish Pilgrimage in this Year of Jubilee! We are aware that some members of our parish may not be able to attend the three-day diocesan pilgrimage to the sites across our diocese. For that reason, we are offering a one-day pilgrimage run by our parish, to three of the sites on **Friday 13 June**. A bus will pick you up at your choice of Swansea, Belmont or Windale. Cost is \$15 - sponsorship is available for financial hardship. Morning tea, tours and Jubilee passports provided. BYO picnic lunch. Please fill in the expression of interest in your church or register by contacting Nicki 0417 773 444 or Jan 0438 252 657.



Direct payment can be made into the parish account via:

BSB: 066-739 **Account Number:** 100005586

Account Name: ELM Parish **Reference:** Bus - your name

Itinerary Friday 13 June 2025

8:30AM Mass at Swansea (optional)
9:00AM bus to Belmont, Windale
10:30AM St Mary's Star of the Sea tour
11:15AM morning tea + talk in Diocesan Resource Centre
12:00PM Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral
12:40PM leave for Maitland
1:15PM packed lunch at the levy
1:45PM tour of St John's Chapel:
2:30PM leave
4:00PM arrive at Windale, Belmont, Swansea

Parish Groups and Teams

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 5 June 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. 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 1 June 2025 at 12:00PM at the Belmont Hotel, Pacific Highway Belmont. RSVP before 5:00PM on Thursday 29/5/2025 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 C 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. All welcome. Enquiries: Gay M 0419 211 573.

St Vincent de Paul

To enquire or join one of our Parish Conferences, contact one of the presidents. Belmont - John D M 0424 695 721, Swansea - Anne H M 0439 814 874, Windale - Paul C M 0418240604.

Diocesan News

National Volunteer Week

To Celebrate National Volunteer Week 2025, we are excited to invite you to our upcoming Volunteer Recognition Event in Kotara.

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering, to celebrate the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme 'Connecting Communities'. Volunteering creates lasting relationships that enrich lives and strengthen communities.

We would like to show our appreciation and say thank you to all our volunteers for their time, efforts and unwavering support to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. Join us on:

When: Wednesday 21 May 2025 5:30PM – 8:00PM

Where: Event Cinemas Westfield Kotara, 15Park Ave, Kotara

RSVP: Monday 19 May 2025 [Click here to register](#).

Jubile News

National Centre for Evangelisation, Australia

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope - <https://nce.catholic.org.au/events/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope>

1-4 May Jubilee of Workers

4-5 May [Jubilee of Entrepreneurs](#)

10-11 May [Jubilee of Musical Ensembles](#)

12-14 May Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

16-18 May [Jubilee of Confraternities](#)

30 May - 1 June [Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly](#)

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

**(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.**

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. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign.

3. Yours is an ever lasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I

heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.



Next Week's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2. 22-29
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4
Second Reading	Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
Gospel Acclamation	John 14:23
Gospel	John 14:23-29