



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT · YEAR A · 22 MARCH 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  [Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish-East Lake Macquarie](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie-105542444421379/)
Webpage <https://mn.catholic.org.au/parish/jesus-the-good-shepherd-east-lake-macquarie/>

Columbarium All enquiries via Parish Office

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

Live Stream

Our Mass continues to be livestreamed daily and available via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie-105542444421379/>.

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.

Feast Days

23 Mar Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
25 Mar The Annunciation of the Lord
29 Mar Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A

Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The following information is to assist parishioners and visitors:

- ✓ **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. **Children's worksheets** are available to take.
- ✓ 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 available to receive. A person with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID, or other viruses should not share the chalice with others.
- ✓ There are two (2) **collection plates** during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The following option is available:
 - The **First Collection** supports all our Diocesan Priests:
Account name: ELM Parish Reference: <your name>
BSB: 066-739 Account Number: 100005583
 - The **Second Collection** supports our Parish running expenses:
Account Name: ELM Parish Reference: <your name>
BSB: 066-739 Account Number: 100005586

Parish Office

When visiting the Parish Office:

- ✓ For your safety, use the footpath. **Do not** walk across 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.

Ignite Conference 26

Ignite Conference is an event of Ignite Youth, a national Catholic youth ministry that springs out of the Emmanuel Community, Brisbane.

Check us out at igniteyouth.com
hello@igniteyouth.com
 (07) 3217 5199

Hosted in July in Broken Bay (NSW) and September in Brisbane, Ignite Conference 2026 will be a powerful encounter with God and His Church, an experience of ascending together. Over four days, encounter the young Church alive in vibrant music, speakers, dance, media, sacraments, workshops, and worship.

Come and be part of this movement. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into our Church, our nations, and our hearts — so that together, we may ASCEND in faith, in unity, and in the mission God has set before us.

Darwin - Mackillop Catholic College, Palmerston, NT
 19-21 June 2026

Sydney - Broken Bay Cathedral Precinct, Waitara
 9-12 July 2026 <https://igniteconference.com.au/sydney>

Brisbane - St Laurence's College, Brisbane
 24-27 September 2026

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: Laura Langan, Therese Smith, Geoff Brown.

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

Recently Deceased: Kevin Bradford.

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'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/>

March Intention is for DISARMAMENT AND PEACE.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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.

Project Compassion

REFLECTION for FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT

Ezekiel 37:12-14 | Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. R. v.7 | Romans 8:8-11 | John 11:1-45

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent

It must be difficult for somebody who has never experienced love to understand the Gospels. They are so full of different emotions, many of them tender. Just think of the beautiful reconciliation between Jesus and Peter after the resurrection. Jesus allows Peter to say that he loves him on no less than three occasions. Thankfully, most of us can write down a long list of people we have loved and who have loved us. Many names would appear on both lists! We keep a special place in our hearts and prayers for the people we know who have died. Even after a long time, their memory will still bring a tear to our eyes. That sorrow comes from a place of deep gratitude. God changes the world one heart at a time.

When we encounter today's Gospel, the story of the raising of Lazarus, we are in a world of emotion. Martha and Mary are grieving for their brother. Jesus loves these two women. Thomas, the twin, is full of bravado and bluster, just as he was later when he wanted proof of the resurrection. Both Martha and Mary are disappointed, even angry, that Jesus has not come sooner. Jesus weeps at the grave of his friend. The mourners who have come to comfort the family must also have been sensitive to the situation. When Jesus says, 'I am the resurrection and the life', he is not explaining an idea. He is responding to the deepest longings of our hearts, as he always does. Today's Psalm reminds us, 'My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watcher for daybreak.'

Over the last few weeks, we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. They call us to *Unite Against Poverty*.

This week Project Compassion asks us to learn more about the work of Caritas Australia in humanitarian emergencies. There are so many situations around the world that require a timely response. Caritas is active in the aftermath of earthquakes, floods, storms, plagues, drought and failed harvests. Of course, there will be time to enquire about the causes and to ask if climate change may have been a factor or if poor building standards caused problems. But first, people and communities need to survive, and Caritas has a lot of experience in this area. Your generosity to Project Compassion makes a wonderful difference to people in need. Thank you for helping to bring light to dark places. Jesus says about Lazarus, 'unbind him, let him go free.' We too can set people free.

Our generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes or projectcompassion.org.au



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

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.

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. A respectful reminder that ALL items for the noticeboards - posters, flyers, newsletters, etc, - need to be submitted via the office for distribution.

St Patrick's Day at Swansea

Thank you to all who join in the recent school event.

Lenten Retreat

Thank you to everyone who attended our Lenten Retreat last weekend, and a special thanks to the team of people who coordinated it and those who assisted. A great occasion.

Project Compassion

Project Compassion boxes are available at the Church entry.

Children's Worksheets

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

Way of the Cross

The next Way of the Cross will be at Windale on Friday 27 March 10:00AM. All welcome.

Choir Practice

Choir practice for the Triduum resumes this Sunday, 3:00PM at Belmont Church. All are welcome to join.

Lenten Groups

Tuesdays 1:00PM at Joan's home.
Thursdays 9:00AM in the Belmont Church Hall.

Parish Groups

Catholic Grandparents Association

Jesus, The Good Shepherd Parish is now affiliated with the Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA). Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Godparents, and all Catholic seniors, if you would like to join, contact Paul C M 0422 252 453. The purpose of the group is to pass on the faith. For more information go to www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org.

Children Liturgy of the Word

Our next Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated, **Sunday 19 April 2026**, during the 9:00AM Mass, and every third Sunday of every month at Belmont Church. Stay for a cuppa and a chat after Mass. A Sign-In Book is available before Mass.

Choir

A choir has been formed to sing Latin Gregorian chant occasionally at the 9:00AM Mass at St Francis Xavier's Church, Belmont. All welcome. Enquiries: Andrew on M 0405 772 779.

Cuppa and a Chat - Parish Cuppa Tea

Belmont - JOIN IN a morning tea at Belmont Hall after the 9:00AM Mass on the third Sunday of every month. All are welcome. Our next one will be on **19 April 2026**. Enquiries: Joice.

Windale - JOIN IN a morning tea at Windale Hall after 7:30AM Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month. All are welcome. Our next one will be **TODAY 22 March 2026**. Enquiries: Sr Maria.

Swansea - JOIN IN our next cuppa after Mass which will be held on Saturday **9 May 2026** after the 5:00PM evening Mass. All welcome. Enquiries: Nicki.

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 12 April 2026 at 12:00PM at Valentine Bowling Club, 17Aa Valentine Crescent Valentine. RSVP before 5:00PM on Thursday 26/3/2026 by contacting Mary on M 0408 498 898. New members always welcome.

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee has placed donation boxes at the entrances to our churches. Please donate generously as funds raised goes towards supporting our three (3) projects: international, national and regional.

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 Mary R M 0402 498 898.

St Patricks Craft Group

Our parish craft group gathers weekly in the Swansea Church Hall at 9:30AM on Mondays, except January. Resumes Monday 2 February 2026. 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 - Jenny P M 0439 814 874, Windale - Paul C M 0418 240 604.

Diocesan News

Way of the Cross 2026

The Parish community of St Joseph's Toronto warmly invites you to its annual Way of the Cross. The Way of the Cross will be held in the Church and afterwards, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available as we prepare for Holy Week.

When: Sunday 22 March, 2:00PM Where: St Joseph's, Toronto

2026 Chrism Mass

Bishop Michael invites you to join him, the clergy and people of the diocese in celebrating this year's Chrism Mass on Tuesday, 31 March at 7:00PM in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Southern Cross Hall.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OR SERVICE	CHURCH	
Saturday	28 March 2026	6:00PM	Palm (Passion) Vigil	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Sunday	29 March 2026	7:30AM	Palm (Passion) Sunday	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		9:00AM	Palm (Passion) Sunday	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Monday	30 March 2026	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Tuesday	31 March 2026	7:00PM	Chrism Mass	Sacred Heart Cathedral	HAMILTON
Wednesday	1 April 2026	8:30AM	Weekday Mass	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
Thursday	2 April 2026	7:00PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
Friday	3 April 2026	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	4 April 2026	9:30AM	Morning Prayer	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		6:00PM	Mass - Easter Vigil	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
Sunday	5 April 2026	7:30AM	Mass - Easter Sunday	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
		9:00AM	Mass - Easter Sunday	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Second Reading

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 11:25. 26

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
Whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel

Shorter form

Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf John 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.



Next week's Readings

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A

First reading: Is 50:4-7

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

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation: Phil 2:8-9

Gospel: Mt 26:14 – 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54