



# JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

## ~ East Lake Macquarie ~


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

· EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD · YEAR A · 5 APRIL 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](mailto: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](mailto: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** **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**  
**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](mailto:admin@belmont.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website** [www.belmont.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:admin@swansea.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website** [www.swansea.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:admin@windale.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website** [www.windale.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:chancery@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Website** [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://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 (as from 11/4/2026 AEST)  
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

13 Apr Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr

### 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.

## Sacraments

### Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email [gem5403@gmail.com](mailto:gem5403@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 meeting is on **Saturday 2 May 2026**. Bookings are essential. **There is no session planned for April due to Easter.**

### 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:** Allan McTaggart, 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:** Nathan Wilson.

**Anniversaries:** Dorothy May 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



## 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/>

### April Intention is For priests in crisis.

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

## 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

On this, the most important celebration in the Christian calendar, it is a shame that the reading chosen for the Lectionary is something of a let down. Certainly, within the gospel reading we have the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala; the disbelieving disciples running to find things exactly as Mary had described; and the dawning realisation of what Jesus had meant when he so frequently spoke about rising from the dead. However, if the editors of the Lectionary had chosen to also include the next nine verses of the gospel we would have also heard the magnificent encounter between Mary and the risen Lord, confirming that it was a woman, Mary Magdala, who was the first witness to Christ's resurrection. As it is, we never hear this account as part of the cycle of Sunday readings.

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe.

### Historical Context – Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

### Gospel Focus – The disciple Jesus loved

In this week's gospel we see reference to a disciple as 'the one Jesus loved'. It is generally agreed that this disciple is John. There is some suggestion that the disciple, John, is in fact the John ascribed as the author of this gospel. If this is so, to describe himself as the disciple Jesus loved is merely a means of avoiding using a personal pronoun – I or me. Just as Jesus described himself as 'the Son of God' or 'the Son of Man' rather than say 'I', John uses the same convention to avoid naming himself. It is not to suggest that Jesus didn't love his other disciples.

### Different View – An empty tomb?

There are some writers who have questioned the historical accuracy of the empty tomb account of the resurrection. Some theologians and biblical scholars (e.g. members of the 'Jesus Seminar') argue that historically, it is far more likely that the victim of Roman crucifixion would be left to rot on the cross or buried in a shallow criminal's grave – not laid to rest in an expensive private tomb. However, they do not argue against resurrection. They maintain that Jesus' body was not 'resuscitated' or 'reanimated'. What happened to his corpse, they argue, is irrelevant to Christ's resurrection.

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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au).

**For further information visit:**

Website: [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au)

Facebook: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Complaints: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/>



## Easter

### **Easter Blessings**

Wishing you all a blessed Easter and a joyous reminder of God's love for us all.

### **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.

### **Reminder**

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

### **Easter Offering Envelopes**

This collection helps support our clergy. Envelopes will be available. Thank you for your support.

### **Good Friday Envelopes**

Envelopes are available and can be placed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection plate. For more info <http://holylandfranciscansaustralia.org/>

### **Project Compassion Boxes**

Project Compassion boxes can be returned to the church.

### **Lenten Groups**

Thank you to those of you who gathered together to reflect as a Lenten Group.

### **Palm Crosses**

A very special thank you to Julie, Les, and Nicki, who, together with students at our parish schools, made our Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday this year.

## Parish News

### **Welcome**

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

### **Change to Vigil Mass Time**

A reminder, since Daylight Saving ends on Sunday 5 April 2026, as **from Saturday 11 April**, the Vigil Mass at Swansea will be celebrated at 5:00PM (AEST).

### **Children's Worksheets**

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

### **Event Planning Meeting – Newcomer's welcome**

There will be a meeting on Thursday 9 April at 9:00AM in the Belmont Church Hall, for the continued planning of the upcoming Parish Feast Day Celebration. Newcomers are most welcome.

### **World Day of Prayer**

Thank you to all who attended the World Day of Prayer Service at St Patrick's on 6 March 2026. The collection during the service raised \$650 and these funds have been forwarded to the World Day of Prayer NSW Committee and will be used by the Bible Society to aid the World Day of Prayer Nigeria Project.

### **Christmas Charity Collection**

Our Parish Christmas Charity Collection (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection on Christmas Day) in the amount of \$1,103.45 has been forwarded to Fr Fabian in Nigeria via Fr Camillus.

### **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.

## Parish Feast Day Celebration

Sunday 26 April 2026 @ 9:00AM

Our Parish Feast Day Celebration Mass followed by morning tea, reflections, music, and lunch concluding at approximately 1:15 PM

Held at St Francis Xavier Church and Hall, Belmont  
Come and celebrate Jesus the Good Shepherd Day in a spirit of faith, friendship, and joy.

Parishioners, families, friends, and visitors are all most welcome!

For lunch, we kindly ask those attending to please bring a plate of finger food to share  
Tea, coffee, and juice will be provided.  
Feel free to BYO any other non-alcoholic drinks.

Enquiries: Joice E [joice.mara.oli@gmail.com](mailto:joice.mara.oli@gmail.com)  
Nicki M 0417 773 444

For catering purposes, a sign-up sheet is available at the church entrance.

## Diocesan News

### **Bishop's Easter Message**

Our Bishop's Easter message can be viewed via <https://mn.catholic.org.au/easter-maitland-newcastle/>

### **Called to Know More - Stories of a Catholic Military Chaplain**

In preparation for ANZAC Day, hear from Fr Greg Barker, who will share his personal experience serving as a Military Chaplain on the realities of service, faith, and accompaniment among those affected by war. Following the talk and morning tea, all are invited to join in midday Mass at the Cathedral. Register on the Diocesan Website.

When Friday 24 April 2026, 10:30AM

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle West

### **Alive Youth**

Come along to the launch of our new Diocesan Youth Ministry, ALIVE! All welcome! Featuring:

- ✓ Dynamic & exciting program designed for young people
- ✓ Getting excited about upcoming events for young people in the Diocese
- ✓ Praise & worship with an acclaimed team of worship leaders ft. Louisa Daniels
- ✓ Opportunity for encounter, worship & being called on into faith
- ✓ Making friendships with other young people from far and wide!

When: Sunday 24 May 2026 2:00PM – 5:00PM

Where: The Factory Theatre @ Trinity College – Park Avenue Adamstown

Join the waitlist via [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au) to be the first to receive registration details! We can't wait to see you there!

## Other News

### **Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal**

Lebanon is facing one of its most severe humanitarian crises in years, as a sudden surge in violence and mass evacuation orders force families to flee with nothing. Within 24 hours, Caritas Lebanon reported 667,831 newly displaced people seeking safety. Despite the volatile environment, Caritas Lebanon teams are operating across seven governorates, delivering food, essential items, healthcare, psychosocial support, water and hygiene assistance, and protection services. Let us stand in solidarity with our partners in Lebanon. Learn more or make a donation today at [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)



## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.  
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.  
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

### First Reading

Acts 10:34. 37-43

#### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

### Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord.

### Sequence - O Flock of Christ

O flock of Christ, your homage bring  
to Christ the Lamb, you glorious King.  
His Easter praise in triumph sing!  
Alleluia!, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Peace has come down from God on high.  
The King of peace in death did lie.  
To save the sheep the Lamb did die.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Never on earth was stranger sight:  
Life fought with death in darkest night,  
yet lives to reign in endless night.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
What saw you, Mary, on your way?  
'I saw the tomb where Life once lay,  
whose glory shone this Easter Day!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Angels their joyful tidings spread!  
Grave-clothes I saw where non lay dead,  
the cloth that once had veiled his head!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ is my hope, who rose for me!  
Soon will you all his glory see!  
Christ bids you go to Galilee!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ has indeed arisen then  
as Lord of life, to reign again!  
On us have mercy, Lord! Amen.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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### Gospel Acclamation

1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Jn 20:1-9

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Communion Antiphon

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;  
therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread  
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

