



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~


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

· SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER · YEAR A · 10 MAY 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 Currently working off-site.
Wednesday Please email your requests via
Thursday elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au

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 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

12 May Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs
Saint Pancras, Martyr
13 May Our Lady of Fatima
14 May Saint Matthias, Apostle

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 **Clergy**:
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.

A Mothers' Day Prayer

Loving God, we pray:
 for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility;
 for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
 for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
 for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;
 for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
 for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;
 for those who raise children on their own;
 for those who have lost a child;
 for those who care for the children of others;
 for those whose children have left home;
 and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,
 and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good,
 living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.

Amen.



Original Source of this prayer is unknown.

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: David Hall.

Anniversaries: Maria Ee, Cliff Lorimar, Pam McEneaney and stillborn baby daughter, David McEneaney, John McEneaney, Father Jack McEneaney, Michael Haggerty, Barry Downs.

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.

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/>

May's Intention is That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

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

Although this week's gospel passage comes from the Last Supper discourse, it is the perfect reading for this time in the liturgical cycle. In next week's liturgy we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and the following week we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. This week's reading is the perfect precursor to these coming weeks. Prior to this section of the Last Supper discourse, Jesus has told the disciples that he will be leaving them. He alludes to that fact again in this section but also spells out that he will ask the Father to send to the disciples another advocate (sometimes translated as paraclete or counsellor). By referring to the Spirit as 'another' advocate or paraclete, Jesus names himself as having been an advocate. The Spirit is to continue the work that Jesus has begun in and with the disciples, standing as witness and strength for them to help them when the world turns against them.

Jesus says to the disciples that 'In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.' Christian people believe that Christ continues to be present in the world even though he is no longer physically present. Jesus' reference to 'the world' is a reference to those who do not believe. It is only those who believe who continue to recognise and affirm his ongoing presence in the world. Whilst the Spirit, the advocate or paraclete, will act in the world to bring about the reign of God, it is in the hearts and minds of those who believe where the Spirit will act most strongly.

From the perspective of ... The disciples

The words of Jesus in this gospel passage were addressed to the disciples at the Last Supper. They had almost no inclination of what was about to befall them, nor the heart-wrenching loss that they would feel. Yet Jesus tried to prepare them and reassure them that they would not be abandoned by him. In the days after his death, the disciples struggled to remember these words and they were caught up by despair. Even once they had witnessed the Risen Lord, he told them that he would again be leaving them. They must have been so confused and afraid.

Living the Gospel – Live in love

Throughout the gospel of John, we are reminded of the enduring relationship between Jesus and the Father. A number of times, Jesus announces that he and the Father are one. In today's passage, Jesus also says to the disciples that they can share in this relationship of love. When Jesus speaks about anyone who 'loves' him, he speaks about anyone who lives by his message and seeks to be like him. Anyone who does that will share in the love that exists between the Father and the Son. That invitation is open for each of us today as well.

Gospel Focus – Paraclete

The Greek word, parakletos, is translated into a number of different terms in English translations of the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the broader meaning of advocate that we use today: someone who stands up for another; someone who speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends strength and support to someone who is disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for many people during his ministry and it is also what the Holy Spirit is sent to do. © 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](mailto: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.

Children's Worksheets

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

Month of Mary

May is traditionally dedicated as the Month of Mary, a time when we are encouraged to deepen our devotion to the Blessed Virgin, through the daily recitation of the Rosary. See page 1 for our parish Rosary times. You are invited to join in.

A Special Morning Tea for Volunteer's Week

Volunteer's Week starts on Monday 18 May 2026, and the theme of this year is 'Your year to Volunteer'. To celebrate, we invite all volunteers and all parishioners, to join in and celebrate at a special morning tea held after the 9:00AM Mass on Sunday 17 May 2026 in our Belmont church hall. Morning tea will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there. Enquiries: Joice.

Invitations

Fr Camillus extends an invitation to all our parishioners to join him in celebrating a special **Mass of Thanksgiving** in honour of his **10th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination** on Saturday 6 June 2026 at Corpus Christi Church, Waratah at 10:30AM followed by a reception at Corpus Christi Primary School Hall. There will be no parish morning Mass on 6 June 2026.

Also, Fr Camillus will be presiding at **Exposition and Benediction** on Friday 5 June at Saint Francis Xavier Church, Belmont at 5:00PM as part of his thanksgiving. As Fr Camillus writes; "I would be deeply honoured by their [the Parishioners of East Lake Macquarie Parish] presence as we gather in prayer and thanksgiving for God's grace and faithfulness over these past ten years." There will be no morning Mass 6 June 2026.

National Count of Attendance 2026

The 2026 National Count of Attendance (Mass Count) will take place over the first four weekends in May. The count takes place during the first four consecutive weekends of May

1. Online Masses on YouTube and Facebook should be recorded
2. Weekend 1 & 2 are a basic head count
3. Weekend 3 must also include detail around how many males and females
4. Weekend 4 must include the count being undertaken in five age brackets

Bishop's Staff Day 2026

Our Parish is included in Bishop's Staff Day this year. We are calling on parishioners to take part on Tuesday 2 June, from 10:00AM-2:00PM. This special gathering is an opportunity for diocesan staff to step out from their offices and into parish life to "come together around our shared mission" and connect more deeply with parish communities. Over 200 staff will be split into groups of 40 to visit one of seven (7) parish sites, with our parish being one site. Your presence will help tell the story of our parish; it's faith, its people, it's quiet acts of service and hope. In meeting one another, we strengthen the bond that holds us together as the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Please consider being part of this important day. Speak to your Fr Gerard or Nicki Graham to express your interest.

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.

Grandparents Faith Café - "Ancient Monastic Eldership and Modern Grandparents" Session is free and open to all.

Speaker Author, Musician, Songwriter - John Michael Talbot
When: Wednesday 13 May 2026 @ 4:30AM
Where: www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Children Liturgy of the Word

Our next Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated, **Sunday 17 May 2026**, during the 9:00AM Mass, and every third Sunday of every month at Belmont Church. A Sign-In Book is available before Mass. See page 2.

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 normally on the third Sunday of every month. All are welcome. Our next one will be on **17 May 2026**. Enquiries: Joice.

Windale - JOIN IN a morning tea at Windale Hall after 7:30AM Mass normally on the fourth Sunday of the month. All are welcome. Our next one will be **24 May 2026**. Enquiries: Sr Maria.

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 M 0418 482 568 or E mcgraths_12@hotmail.com.

Friendship Group

The next Friendship Group for singles lunch will be held on Sunday 7 June 2026 at 12:00PM at Swansea RSL, Bridge Street, Swansea. RSVP before 5:00PM on Thursday 28/5/2026 by contacting Mary on M 0408 498 898. New members 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. 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

Diocesan Cursillo 3-Day Course

The annual Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 2026 Cursillo 3-day retreat will be held from 11-14 June at Rathmines with the theme "Joy of the Lord is my strength". Cursillo is a short course which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values and will be asking each participant "How can I BE Christian in my many everyday environments?" For more info <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/diocesan-cursillo-retreat/>

Fishing Weekend

You are invited to a Men's Beach Fishing Weekend at Forster - "God for Blokes" - facilitated by the Missionaries of God's Love.

Where: Camp Elim Forster
When: Friday 10 July 2026 6:00PM - Sunday 12 July 2026 1:00PM
For information and registration go to trybooking.com/DLPKG



Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Second Reading

1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God

that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.

On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and
he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.



Next Week's Readings

The Ascension of the Lord A

First Reading	Acts 1:1-11
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v.6
Second Reading	Eph 1:17-23
Gospel Acclamation	Mt 28:19, 20
Gospel	Mt 28:16-20