JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDNARY TIME · YEAR A · 21 JUNE 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
Webpage	https://mn.catholic.org.au/parish/jesus-the-good-shepherd-east-lake-macquarie/
Columbarium	All enquiries via Parish Office

Office Hours

Monday	8:30AM to 1:30PM
Wednesday	8:30AM to 1:30PM
Thursday	8:30AM to 1:30PM

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 is available via Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie-105542444421379/.

Feast Days

22 Jun	Saints John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs
23 Jun	Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop
24 Jun	The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

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.

Votive Candles

Burning votive candles is a common sight in Catholic churches. The light signifies our prayer offered in faith entering the light of God. It also shows reverence and our desire to remain present in prayer even as we continue with our day. All are welcome to light candles. Gold coin donations. All proceeds support the Parish.

Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The following information is to assist parishioners and visitors:

- ✓ **Face masks** are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** is available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Please **take your bulletin home** with you after Mass.
- ✓ A selection of **Children's worksheets** is available for children.
- ✓ The **Sign of Peace** remains contactless except between those residing in the same household.
- ✓ The **Communion Host** can be received in the hand, or on the tongue with care. For the latter, proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line.
- ✓ The **Precious Blood** can be received. A person with symptoms of cold, flu, COVID, or other viruses should not share the chalice with others. Intinction is only for priests.
- ✓ There are two (2) **collection plates** during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The following option is available:
  -The **First Collection** supports Diocesan **Clergy**:
  Account name: ELM Parish
  Reference: <your name>
  BSB: 066-739 Account Number: 100005583
  -The **Second Collection** supports our **Parish**:
  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.
- ✓ On-site visitors are all required to sign-in.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer and face masks are available if needed.

Sacraments

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email 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 session is on **Saturday 4 July 2026**. Bookings are essential.

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: Marlene O'Neill, Rosalie Shaw, Laura Langan, Geoff Brown.
(Once the person is no longer in need of prayer, would you kindly inform the Parish Office)

Recently Deceased: Grace Mann, Edward Ahern.

Anniversaries: Roger and Jessie Borg, Mary and Fred Wilcox.

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. **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/

June's Intention is for the Values of Sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter

'Do not be afraid' is one of the most commonly repeated sentences in the Bible. In one form or another, the command to 'be not afraid' or 'fear not' appears several hundred times throughout the Old and New Testaments. Today's gospel passage is part of the sending out of the Twelve that occupies all of Chapter 10 in the gospel. It follows a little later in the chapter from last week's reading in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out as Apostles. The remainder of the chapter provides an extended teaching on what it means and what it costs to take the message of Jesus out into the world. Jesus teaches the Twelve that the message they bear will not always be well received and there will be those who will seek to silence the Apostles through violent means. But then the teaching comes to the section of today's passage and Jesus commands the Twelve, 'Do not be afraid'.

The message to not be afraid is as much for the original intended audience of the gospel as it was for the apostles. The community for whom this gospel was written were on the verge of being 'squeezed out' and forced into secret. The passage reminds them to have courage and to have the courage of their convictions; to shout from the house-tops their message, not whisper it in darkness. It is a reminder of the abundant love of God who cares for them and sees all their efforts to continue to live out the message and ministry of Jesus.

It is equally a message for us, today. We are called to continue the spread of the gospel message; continuing the work of those early Christian communities, the Twelve and Jesus himself.

Gospel Focus – Fear

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

Living the Gospel – From the house-tops

One of the messages of Jesus to his disciples and, through him, of Matthew to the original community, is to have courage and to have pride in their belief. No matter what threat or persecution they are to endure, the command is to proclaim the message of Jesus from the house-tops. They are to be proud of what they believe and be prepared to share it with others. In a world today that is not always open to the message of Jesus, we too are called to be proud of what we believe and not whisper it in the darkness.

Scriptural context – The Q source

This gospel passage that appears at Mt 10:26-33 is virtually reproduced in the gospel of Luke (12:2-12) but does not appear in the gospel of Mark. Both the gospels of Matthew and Luke draw extensively on the gospel of Mark as a source for their writing but scholars have also deduced that they shared another unknown source. The content of this lost source can only be deduced by the identification of parallel passages such as this one that appear in Matthew and Luke but not Mark. The undiscovered document is known as the 'Q source' after the German word, Quelle (source). *© Greg Sunter*

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.

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.

Children's Worksheets

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

Winter Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal will commence on Sunday 21 June 2025 and continue the following Sunday. Vinnies members will be collecting donations in all three parish worshipping communities on those Sundays.

Vulnerable people are being pushed into homelessness and poverty - all it takes is one sudden crisis. This winter, you can help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness get the support they need. Please give generously

Pledge Card

During the month of June, parishioners will be offered a 'PLEDGE CARD' to complete. This is an opportunity to consider, and make a 'commitment', to the 1st and 2nd Collection, by cash (collection plate as normal), credit card, or direct debit, so that the parish can continue to meet its expected expenditures, and to enable it to financially plan ahead. **In short**, the only change is that there will no longer be any envelope system. Everything else continues as usual. Thank you to those who have already responded.

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's Liturgy of the Word

Our next Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated**, TODAY, Sunday 21 June 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 is **TODAY, 21 June**. 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 **28 June 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 5 July @ 12:00PM at Pelican RSL, Piriwil Street, Pelican. RSVP before 5:00PM Thursday 2/7/2026 by ringing Mary on M 0408 498 898. New members always welcome.

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.

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 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

From the Bishop

The Bishop would like to thank the clergy, parish staff and parishioners who hosted Bishop's Staff Day on Tuesday, 2 June.

Bishop Michael has received many positive comments from diocesan staff and he is grateful for the time, effort and hospitality that went into making the day a success. Staff have commented that it was encouraging to see the many ways in which the parishes are engaged in the mission of the Church.

Please be sure to extend the Bishop's gratitude to your parishioners for their generous hospitality.

Celebrate Our Patronal Feast

All are invited as we celebrate the Patronal Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Under her loving care, we give thanks for the many blessings we have received and seek her intercession for our diocese, our families, and our community. The title *Perpetual Help* reminds us that God's love never fails and that Mary is always near, pointing us to Christ and encouraging us on our journey of faith. Come and celebrate with us as one community, united in hope and gratitude, rejoicing in the gift of our patroness and the faith we share. No registration required, morning tea following Mass. https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/celebrate-the-patronal-feast-of-our-lady-of-perpetual-help/

When: Saturday 27 June, 10:00AMam Mass
Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral

CatholicCare - 2026 Make a Difference Appeal

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning has launched its 2026 Make a Difference Appeal, and we need your help. Each week, CatholicCare serves more than 1,000 meals through our Community Kitchens, providing a warm meal, connection and support to people experiencing hardship across our region. Supporting the vulnerable is at the heart of our Church's mission, and every donation helps CatholicCare continue this vital work. Donations made before 30 June are tax-deductible.
Please consider making a gift today and help make a difference in the lives of local people.
Donate now – Link or QR Code: www.mycause.com.au/makeadifferenceappeal2026

Other News

NAIDOC Week 2026 (5-12 July)

Join us for the NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony as we celebrate this year's theme, "50 Years of Deadly"—marking five decades of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander excellence, strength, culture, and leadership. Following the ceremony, a community procession will make its way to Foreshore Park for the Awabakal Newcastle NAIDOC Community Festival. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is proud to support this important event and invites all to come together to celebrate, listen, learn, and walk alongside First Nations peoples in the spirit of reconciliation.

When: Monday 6 July 2026, 8:45AM
Where: Civic Park, Newcastle
Register: https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/2026-naidoc-week-community-festival/

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Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 27:8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.

First Reading

Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's children.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

Second Reading

Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 144:15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

Next Week's Reading

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading	2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2
Second Reading	Rom 6:3-4. 8-11
Gospel Acclamation	1 Pt 2:9
Gospel	Mt 10:37-42

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