



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · YEAR A · 16 AUGUST 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  <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 8:30AM 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: **12:30PM WINDALE Feast Day of St Pius X**
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

19 Aug Saint John Eudes, Priest
20 Aug Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
21 Aug Saint Pius X, Pope

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. 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, use the footpath and **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 gern5403@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 5 September 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** and **weekly at St Patrick's Church Swansea Vigil Mass**.

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.

At Belmont 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, Laura Langan, Geoff Brown.

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: George and Doris Stanton.

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/>

August's Intention For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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



This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

From the perspective of ... A disciple.

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

Historical Context ... Who were the Canaanites?

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the 'Promised Land' they sought was the land of Canaan (approximately the area of modern Israel, TransJordan, Syria and Lebanon). Here they were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites and to subdue the land. (Exodus 23:23-24) The Israelites never successfully removed all the Canaanites from the Palestine region. By the time of Jesus, the Israelites had established themselves in the region between Judea in the south and Galilee in the north, while the original inhabitants of the area had been 'squeezed out' – predominantly to the north. The Canaanites were dispossessed of their land by the Israelites and it is easy to see why there was tension between them.

Scriptural Context

This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew's gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews. © 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.

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.

Soup Night - Swansea

Stay for a warm bowl of soup and fellowship at St Patrick's Swansea on Saturday 15 August after the 5:00PM Mass.

Exposition and Benediction

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be at Belmont on Friday 21 August from 5:00PM to 5:45PM.

Anointing Mass

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will be at St Francis Xavier Church Belmont on Thursday 27 August 2026 at 10:00AM. All are welcome.

Decorating Our Space

Over the last two years our Parish has won two \$500 prizes for its creative works in the Decorate Your Space competition. We invite our Craft Group, and any other talents in the parish, to make a submission again this year. For more information contact Nicki 0417 773 444. See the 'Diocesan News' section.

Parish Social Event - Save the Date

Please save the date, Tuesday 3 November, Melbourne Cup Day, for our next parish get together. More information soon.

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 - Belmont

Our next Children's Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated **TODAY, Sunday 16 August 2026**, during the 9:00AM Mass, and every third Sunday of every month at Belmont Church. To assist facilitators a Sign-In Book is available before Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Swansea

NEW to St Patrick's Swansea, **every week** Saturday 5:00PM during the Mass. To assist facilitators 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 normally on the third Sunday of every month. All are welcome. Our next one is **TODAY, Sunday, 16 August**. 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 is on **Sunday, 23 August 2026**. Enquiries: Sr Maria.

Friendship Group

The next Friendship Group for Singles lunch will be held on Sunday 13 September @ 12:00PM at Valentine Bowling Club 17A Valentine Crescent Valentine. RSVP before 5:00PM, Thursday 10/8/2026 by ringing Mary on 0408 498 898. New members always welcome.

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.

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

Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division

Bishop Michael Kennedy reflects on the latest Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement and the Gospel call to be people of encounter and reconciliation. Scan the QR code or visit <https://mn.catholic.org.au/news/living-the-gospel-in-times-of-social-division-a-message-from-bishop-michael-kennedy/>

Leading into Social Justice Sunday on 30 August, parishes are encouraged to reflect on the 'culture of encounter' as part of our current season of listening assemblies and renewal.

St Carlo Acutis Major Relic Mission

As the Diocese journeys towards Eucharist28 with Pope Leo XIV we are proud to be hosting the first-class relics of a millennial Saint – Carlo Acutis (8-14 September). During his young life, Carlo created the Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition, which will also accompany the tour. See the schedule that covers the Reception of the Relic, Upper Hunter Encounter, Northern Region Encounter and the Newcastle City Basin Encounter. The pilgrimage has been drawing tens of thousands from across Australia and New Zealand these past months and we are looking forward to host. Learn More: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/st-carlo-acutis-relic-mission/>

World Youth Day 2027

Bishop Michael Kennedy has announced the Diocesan pilgrimage to South Korea and Japan for young people aged 16-35 next year. World Youth Day with Pope Leo XIV will be an enriching experience of pilgrimage for young people which has a profound impact on their relationship with Jesus, their prayer life, their lived mission and their relationships with others. Join us for the Reception of the Relic of WYD Patron Saint Carlo Acutis on 8 September and a WYD Launch Event featuring early information about this exciting opportunity. Learn More: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/world-youth-day-2027-launch/>

Other News

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will be held on 1 September 2026. The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV, is "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4), highlighting the link between armed conflict and environmental damage. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2026-06/vatican-theme-2026-world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html>

Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters. Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for Palms International Volunteering, Australia's only Catholic lay organization that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering. Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific. For more 02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567 www.simplicityseptember.org.au

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1-6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.



Next Week's Readings

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading:	Isaiah 22:19-23
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8
Second Reading:	Romans 11:33-36
Gospel Acclamation:	Matthew 16:18
Gospel:	Matthew 16:13-20