



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

• TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A • 4 OCTOBER 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 
Webpage <https://mn.catholic.org.au/parish/jesus-the-good-shepherd-east-lake-macquarie/>

Columbarium

Office Hours

Monday OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday 8:30AM to 1:30PM
Thursday OFFICE 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 5:00PM Swansea (6:00PM 10/10/2026)
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

5 Oct Faustina Kowalska 6 Oct Saint Bruno, Priest
7 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary
9 Oct Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs
Saint John Leonardi, Priest
Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is prayed 15 minutes before our weekday Mass.

Rosary

Rosary is prayed daily after the 8:30AM weekday Mass; and on Saturdays prior to the Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Swansea starting 5:20PM Summer and 4:20PM Winter. All are invited to join in.

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, if needed.
- ✓ **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:
-For an **Authority to Deduct** form, contact the Parish Office

-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

-OTHER Parish account **Repairs and Maintenance**:

Account name: R&M ELM Parish Reference: <your name>

BSB: 066-739 Account Number: 100030696



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.

Catholic Mission Appeal – 18 October



In two weeks, we will share the story of Yamikani*, a young boy in rural Malawi whose daily journey to school is filled with hardship.

You will also meet Fr Matthew Semba who is leading a project to build a new school close to home, so children like Yamikani can learn safely and begin to imagine a future beyond survival.

Through your prayers and support, you are part of this mission, helping to ensure that no child is left behind.

**Name changed for privacy.*

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/>.

Our Parish Appeal will be held on World Mission Sunday 18 October 2026.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
[catholicmission.org.au/united](https://www.catholicmission.org.au/united)

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: Brian Halligan.

Anniversaries: Tony Ryan, Kimberly Ryan.

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/>

October Intention is for MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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 must be read in conjunction with the first reading (Isaiah 5:1-7) and the responsorial psalm, because the message of these passages is implicit in the parable told by Jesus. As soon as Jesus began to describe the vineyard – fenced around, a winepress dug and tower built – his audience would have immediately known that he was reflecting the Isaiah description of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. Isaiah's condemnation of Israel in that passage is so strong that one can almost imagine Jesus' audience cringing in anticipation of where this story was leading.

The imagery Jesus used would have been so familiar to his audience that it was almost mundane, and yet Jesus, as usual, gives the image a twist. He describes a vineyard owner whose tenant farmers rebel, beat and murder his servants. Any one of these acts was punishable by death and the audience may well have expected the story to end there. And yet the landowner sends further messengers – hopeful of a change of heart from the tenants and allowing them the opportunity to do what is right. After these messengers are also murdered, the landowner sends his own son to collect the harvest from the tenants.

Jesus, of course, is drawing on the familiar image of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. God, the landowner, has entrusted this beautifully prepared land to the people of Israel and yet they have taken ownership for themselves and forgotten their Lord. Messengers, in the form of prophets, have been sent to call the people back to God but they were ignored and even murdered. Now, the Son has been sent to the people and received much the same response. When Jesus asks his audience of chief priests and elders what the landowner should do, they are acutely aware that he is asking them how God should deal with them.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

Matthew's whole recount of this parable is dependent upon the reader/listener's familiarity with earlier writings within the Old Testament. We are fortunate that the designers of the lectionary have included the relevant passages as the first reading and psalm for this Sunday's readings. The original audience would have drawn on their own familiarity with the texts and recognised Jesus' words as echoing those of Isaiah and the psalmist. Matthew's gospel was particularly keen to cast Jesus in the image of fulfilling the prophecies of the Jewish tradition. Throughout Matthew's gospel we see the author placing the words of prophecy in Jesus' mouth or using the narration to confirm that Jesus performed actions to fulfil the words of the prophets.

Living the Gospel – Different View: Using scripture to justify hatred

This text is one that has been used by some Christians to justify their hatred and persecution of Jews. They point to the parable Jesus told as evidence that Jesus blamed the Jewish people for his death. It is a strange fact that some people believe that the only way to justify their own beliefs is to try to destroy the beliefs (and believers) of other faiths. For hundreds of years Christians abused and tormented Jews, driving them out of cities and even countries. The terrible treatment of Jews in World War II was drawing on a long history of Christians persecuting 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.

Vigil Mass

A reminder, Saturday evening Mass time will change to 6:00PM commencing on Saturday 10 October 2026.

Parish Assembly

Thank you to all those who attended the Parish Assembly.

Life Membership

At the 8:30AM Mass last Thursday parishioner Brian O'Neill received Life Membership of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The Mass also served as a Festival Mass for Vinnie's members. This is a great honour for Brian and also for our parish and it's three Vinnie's conferences. Brian became a Vinnie's member at age 18 and is still a member in his nineties. His service at Windale Conference is not forgotten. Well deserved Brian.

Rosary

October is the month of the Rosary. Join in our daily Rosary after Mass. Copies of 'How to say the Rosary' are available at the church entrance or the Parish Office.

2026 Rosary Rally –Public Rosary

Join us as we pray for our nation. The Public Rosary is an international campaign to pray the rosary together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (13 October 1917) at Fatima. It is a great opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer. In 2025, there were 136 groups registered to pray the Rosary throughout Australia. Everyone is invited.

When 11:00AM start on Saturday 10 October 2026

Where: Ken Lambkin Reserve Pacific Highway Belmont South (BYO chair or rug)

Enquiries: Joan 0476 636 750

Info: <https://fatima.org.au/>

Parish Social Event – Melbourne Cup

Parishioners and friends are invited to a social event on Tuesday 3 November, from 11:00AM to 3:30PM, Melbourne Cup Day. Join in a day of fun in the Belmont Church Hall. Fancy hat optional. Sausage sizzle provided. Please bring a plate to share – salad, savoury, snacks or sweets – if you can note your choice of dish on the sign in sheets. Tea and coffee provided. BYO drinks and light refreshments. Trivia, sweeps, lucky door prizes. To save your seat, please add your name to the expression of interest sheet at the church entrance.

New Parish Account – Repairs & Maintenance

Our Swansea Church needs major repairs. The parish has an account specifically for major repairs. Should anyone wish to contribute directly towards this, the account details can be found on the front page.

Diocesan News

Update on Catholic Schools Staffing Changes

Over recent months, Catholic Schools Maitland-Newcastle has been undertaking an important process to review how we resource our schools and support student learning into the future. As is the nature of change, this has caused conversation in our parishes, schools and even in the media.

Following consultation with principals, school leaders and affected staff, decisions regarding the Catholic Schools Change Project have now been finalised.

At the heart of every decision has been our mission. We are making these changes because we must make deliberate decisions about where our finite resources can have the greatest impact for our almost 22,000 students, both now and into the future.

Formation Films

A documentary film about Pauline Marie Jaricot, foundress of The Society for the Propagation of Faith who, at just 18 years old, revolutionized the way our Church looks at the missions. Join us, in conjunction with Catholic Mission, to watch the film and share lunch and robust discussion. All are welcome!

Film: Heart of a Missionary: The Story of Pauline Jaricot

When: Saturday 10 October 2026, 11:00AM – 1:00PM

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre – Cnr Parry & Tudor St Newcastle

Registration Essential: call Mary on 0409 033 449 or <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/formation-films-heart-of-a-missionary-the-story-of-pauline-jaricot/>

Called to Know More

Ever wondered how the Church works behind the scenes? Discover how the Church is organised to fulfil its mission in the world and why the Code of Canon Law matters to every Catholic. Join Fr Matthew Muller, Vicar General and Canon Lawyer, for an introduction to the structures, people and principles that support the Church's mission today.

Topic: How is the Church Organised?

When: Tuesday 20 October – 12:00PM to 1:00PM

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre

Info & RSVP: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/called-to-know-more-how-is-the-church-organised/>

Christian Meditation/Reflection/Sharing

JOHN MAIN 1926-2026

Father John Main inspired the global community of meditation. John Main wrote "The task of meditation is to bring all this mobile and distracted mind to stillness and concentration, to bring it, that is, into its proper service."

When: Saturday, 24 October 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Where: DoMN Library (corner Tudor and Parry Street Hamilton. Parking behind Library off Tudor Street and Sacred Heart Cathedral car park)

Donation: \$5.00 Morning Tea Provided at 9:30AM

RSVP by 21/10/2026 via Anne E annecuskelly@hotmail.com or M 0407 436 808.

Rescheduled: Parish Safeguarding Network

Parish Safeguarding Network for Promoters of Safeguarding and volunteers in Children's Ministries. All welcome.

When: Tuesday 27 October 2026 Time: 9:00AM arrival for a 9:30AM start

Where: East Maitland Bowling Club

Lunch will be provided from 12:30PM

Please RSVP to kara.waite-layzell@mn.catholic.org.au with any dietary requirements no later than Friday 16 October.

World Youth Day 2027

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will provide a pilgrimage to South Korea along with a post-retreat in Japan for young people aged 16-35 from 29 July to 13 August 2027. To learn more, E mission@mn.catholic.org.au

Other News

PALMS Celebrating Seniority!

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities! Join Palms International Volunteering for a special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications and time of life. Meet past volunteers Wendy and Mick who will share their adventures of life and laughter in PNG and Timor Leste, leaving a lasting positive impact on communities. To register go to palms.org.au/events

When: Monday 19 October 2026 5:30PM – 7:00PM AEDT

Enquiries: 02 9560 5333 or palms@palms.org.au

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Esther 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

4. And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I call you friends, says the Lord,

Because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.



Next Week's Readings

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First Reading	Isaiah 25:6-10
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 22. R. v.6
Second Reading	Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20
Gospel Acclamation	See Ephesians 1:17-18
Gospel	Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

