



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

• TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR A • 18 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 RE-OPENS ON
Thursday MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2026

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 **NO MASS**
Wednesday 8:30AM Swansea
Thursday 8:30AM Belmont
Friday 8:30AM Swansea
Saturday 8:30AM Belmont

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday 6:00PM 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 Oct Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs AND Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest
 22 Oct Saint John Paul II, Pope
 23 Oct Saint John of Capistrano, Priest
 24 Oct Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

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: RM 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

Our Parish Appeal is this weekend on World Mission Sunday.



This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united

to make a difference today.

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

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: Monica Coles, Ted McInerney.

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

The gospel writer presents this episode as a deliberate attempt by the Pharisees to trap Jesus and turn the people against him. Their plan was a good one, with no apparent 'safe' answer: is it permissible (within Jewish tradition) to pay taxes to Caesar or not? If Jesus were to answer that it is not permissible to pay taxes then he would be identified as a rebel and a threat to Roman authority – leaving himself open to severe punishment. If he were to answer that it was permissible to pay the taxes he would have alienated a lot of his audience who resented the taxes imposed by Rome.



Instead of falling into the trap set by the Pharisees, Jesus approaches the question in a completely different way. He asks them to show him the money with which they pay the tax. Immediately, he has turned the tables on them. He doesn't appear to carry any of the coin in question and yet the Pharisees' disciples carry them as a matter of habit. They are asking if it is permissible to pay the tax and yet freely carry the coin with which the tax is paid. Jesus shows up the hypocrisy of their question by forcing them to reveal their own position in the simple action of producing one of the Roman coins. Jesus then closes the dispute by instructing them to render (give) to Caesar what belongs to Caesar but, more importantly, render to God what belongs to God. In a very simple way Jesus has shown up the Pharisees' disciples as being collaborators with the Roman authority and placing that authority above the authority of God. He reminds the listeners that regardless of earthly authority, the first duty is owed to God.

Historical Context – What's in a face?

The question of coinage was a problematic one for first century Jews. The tradition – grounded in the commandments given to Moses on Mt Sinai – forbade the use of 'graven' or carved images. The people of Israel took this prohibition very seriously and did not portray the human face in artwork of any kind. Roman coins were minted with the face of the emperor on them and it was compulsory that taxes be paid with Roman coin. This helps to explain the role of the Temple money-changers who converted the Roman coin into Temple coin that could be used for religious purposes.

Scriptural context – Jesus and the Pharisees

The gospel of Matthew tends to treat the Pharisees rather harshly. In fact they had more in common with Jesus' style of teaching than other religious groups of the time and some have suggested that Jesus may even have been quite closely associated with the Pharisees. The role of the Pharisees was to interpret the Torah – the Law – for everyday people. They were teachers and preachers who often had a group of disciples who were their followers. The community in which the gospel of Matthew was written regarded the Pharisees harshly because they saw Jesus – not the Pharisees – as the rightful interpreter of the Law.

© 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.

Catholic Mission Appeal World Mission Sunday

TODAY is World Mission Sunday and is our parish Catholic Mission Appeal. You are invited to donate.

<<< HOW TO MAKE A DONATION >>>

1. **CHURCH:** Place your Appeal envelope on the 2nd collection plate on Appeal weekend or next weekend.

2. **ONLINE:** Donate via www.catholicmission.org.au

3. **FREECALL:** 1800 257 296 OR 4. **QR CODE**



Social Justice Collection

A total of \$2,461.03 has been collected this quarter, to be forwarded to Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul, in support of Don Bosco Industrial Training Skills Centre, Mongolia, Balgo Project Western Australia, and Regional St Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your contributions.

Rosary Rally

Thank you to those who gathered on Saturday to publicly pray the Rosary at Lambkin Park Belmont South.

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.

Advent Reflection Booklet

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." LUKE 1:46

The Advent Program is a pocket-sized book that includes daily reflections from the beginning of Advent to the Baptism of the Lord. The book also includes beautiful artwork from the Masters with accompanying artwork reflections. To purchase your copy, contact the Parish Office or see the Joan (Sacristy Belmont). Cost is \$6.00 per booklet.

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 Hall. Fancy hat optional. A sausage sizzle will be 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. For catering purposes and to save your seat, please add your name to the expression of interest sheet at the church entrance. ENQUIRIES: Pauline and John M 0418 482 568. E mcgraths_12@hotmail.com

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:

Belmont - every third Sunday of the month during the 9:00AM Mass. Our next one is **TODAY, 18 October 2026**.

Swansea - every week during the Saturday 5:00PM 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

Everyone is invited to stay, and join in our parish morning tea:

Belmont - every third Sunday of the month after the 9:00AM Mass. Our next one is on **TODAY, Sunday, 18 October**. Enq: Joice.

Windale - every fourth Sunday of the month after the 7:30AM Mass. Our next one is **Sunday, 25 October**. Enq: Sr Maria.

Friendship Group

The next Friendship Group for Singles lunch will be held on Sunday 1 November @ 12:00PM at Pelican RSL, Piriwil Street, Pelican. RSVP before 5:00PM, Thursday 29/10/2026 by ringing Mary on 0408 498 898. New members always 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

Letter for Parishioners from our Bishop

On 25 September 2026, a letter from Bishop Michael Kennedy was provided to clergy with the request that it be shared with parishioners. This letter is to help ensure that parishioners are kept informed about the upcoming clergy appointments and changes. The letter has been emailed to our subscribers, and a copy is available on the church noticeboards.

Mercy and Hope Talks

Talks on suffering, the Saints, Divine Mercy and more.

When: Friday 23 October 6:15PM – 9:00PM and Saturday 24 October 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Where: Kurri Parish Hall

Info & RSVP: Yvonne M 0450 323 206

Christian Meditation/Reflection/Sharing

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

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 16:6,8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1.4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king'.
He will judge the peoples in fairness.



Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.



Next Week's Readings

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading	Exodus 22:20-26
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Gospel Acclamation	John 14:23
Gospel	Matthew 22:34-40