JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· ALL SAINTS DAY · YEAR A · 1 NOVEMBER 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	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

28 Oct	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
1 Nov	All Saints
2 Nov	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

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 **do not** walk across the garden. All on-site visitors are required to sign-in.

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 7 November 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: Annette Morrow, 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: Pat Nash.

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.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter



Saints are sometimes regarded as 'Catholic superheroes'. Stories of miraculous and remarkable deeds abound, though more in the vein of conversions and cures than speeding bullets and tall buildings. But to get caught up on the Saints of the stained glass windows is to overlook the vast majority of saints. You see, a saint is anybody whose soul is in heaven. The Church celebrates a certain number of Saints whose lives provide a glimpse of God for the rest of the Church. But there are many, many more saints whose glimpse of God was only ever experienced by their family, friends and those with whom they worked. The feast of ALL Saints is an opportunity to remember and reflect on the lives of those saints who've been known and loved by just a few and whose sphere of influence was such that they will never be recognised as Saints by the universal Church.

Today's gospel, the Beatitudes, from the Sermon on the Mount describes perfectly those 'lower case s' saints we celebrate on this feast day. The Beatitudes are sometimes referred to in parallel with the Ten Commandments. However, the Beatitudes are not 'rules' or 'instructions' for life as the Commandments are. They are more in line with a strategy that today we would call 'positive reinforcement'. They celebrate those who respond to God's call through particular attitudes towards life and towards others. Jesus presents them to the disciples and the crowd as images to inspire imitation. They're not hard and fast rules for life, but attitudes for life; the Be-Attitudes, so to speak. Those who live with these attitudes in this life are to be celebrated – 'Happy are you' – for they will be saints. They will be welcomed into communion with God in heaven.

Scriptural context – Kingdom Attitudes

Unlike the Ten Commandments, which describe the rules for life on earth for the ancient Jews, the Beatitudes describe the character or attitudes of people of the Kingdom of God. Like the many Kingdom parables that appear later in this gospel (esp. chapter 13), the Beatitudes present an image of what the Kingdom is like without an explicit explanation of the Kingdom. By praising and honouring the attitudes of the Kingdom, Jesus paints a picture of what life could be and should be like if we choose to live in the Kingdom of God.

Living the gospel – Calling on the Saints

Saints play an important role in the devotional life of many Catholic people, but it is a role that causes some confusion for other traditions. Whilst all prayer is directed to God, sometimes that prayer may be directed through one of the Saints or a Saint is called upon to pray on behalf of the petitioner. Images of people kneeling before statues of Saints has led to a misconception that Catholics pray to Saints, rather than to God through the Saint. The Litany of the Saints, with its 'Pray for us' response, calls on the Saints to intercede for us.

Have you thought? – Making Saints

Despite media reports that the Church, or the Pope, has 'made' a person a Saint, the Church is quite clear that what it does is recognise a person as a Saint, not make them a Saint. This is what happens through the process of canonisation; a person is 'formally recognised' as a Saint by the Church. We might say that it is God who makes Saints, not the Church. The Church formally recognises the saintliness of particular people partly to provide inspiration and example to others. The Church tells the stories of its Saints to keep alive their inspiration. *© 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.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENT – MELBOURNE CUP

Parishioners, family, and friends are invited to a social event, Melbourne Cup Day

Tuesday 3 November 2026
from 11:00AM to 3:30PM

Join in a social day 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 up 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 SIGN-UP SHEET at the church entrance

ENQUIRIES: Pauline and John M 0418 482 568.
E mcgraths_12@hotmail.com

Catholic Mission Appeal

On behalf of the Church in Malawi, thank you once again for your generosity. Your support is helping create spaces where children like Yamikani* can learn, families can rebuild, and communities can move forward together. If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, please visit catholicmission.org.au/united to lend your support today. To learn more about the impact you can make through Catholic Mission, visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work to see other examples of life-giving programs around the world. **Name changed for privacy.*

Thank you. Our Annual Parish Appeal has totalled $2,055.00 so far, which will be forwarded to Catholic Mission soon.

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 Parsh Office or see the Joan (Sacristy Belmont). Cost is $6.00 per book.

Diocesan News

MacKillop Parish Mission 2026 – Little Friars & Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary

We welcome and warmly invite everyone to be part of the Parish Mission being led by the Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary from next Monday 02 November, commencing with All Souls Mass and the Parish Mission Launch at 6:00PM.

This special mission offers a wonderful opportunity for our communities to deepen their faith, encounter Christ in a new way, and connect with others through prayer, reflection, dedicated women's and men's retreat days and engaging formative evening sessions over the coming 10 days.

All events are free, with participants welcome to attend as many sessions as they wish. Whether you have a parishioner who has recently been enquiring and is curious about the Catholic faith, discerning their vocation, seeking spiritual renewal, or simply wanting to grow closer to God, there is something that will speak to everyone.

We encourage you to watch and consider sharing this invitational video at your upcoming Masses: https://youtu.be/n0XPa2ioPXk?si=i8LCiJf8SH8_SLHm
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0XPa2ioPXk

To register or view the mission schedule online via https://mn.catholic.org.au/little-friars-and-little-nuns-of-jesus-and-mary/. QR CODE to Register for events.

Other News

Working in the Church – Online Seminar

New Shore Strategy for Mission invites you to "Working in the Church: Understanding its Mission, Culture and your Place Within it", a two-part online professional formation seminar being held on 25 and 27 November for people serving across Catholic organisations.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge will open the seminar by reflecting on the mission that lies behind the Church's work, with Fr Brian Lucas leading the principal formation across the two sessions. Sr Clare Nolan RSC and Martin Teulan, Executive Director of the Association of Ministerial PJPs, will also bring their experience and perspectives to the program.

The seminar is designed for those working across Catholic education, health, welfare and social services, dioceses, parishes, ministries, charities and other Catholic organisations. It will explore the Church's mission and culture, the place of lay and professional staff within that mission, and what it means to work effectively and purposefully within the life of the Church.

Further information and registration are available at: newshore.co/events or if you have any questions please contact the organiser directly: bernard@newshore.co.

Caritas Australia Global Gift this Christmas

With Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, you can give a meaningful Christmas card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Whether you're shopping for family, friends or colleagues, you'll find a gift that continues to make a real difference long after Christmas Day.

Each Global Gift card you buy helps make the world a little better every day. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school. Give a gift this Christmas that reflects the true spirit of giving and makes a lasting impact. Browse the full range of Global Gifts: https://www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts

Palms Timor-Leste Encounter

Timor-Leste is Australia's closest neighbour. Yet very few Australians have ever been there. An Encounter Tour to is not only an unforgettable holiday – it is an opportunity to get 'behind the scenes' insights into history, culture & the importance of relationships in sustainable development.

In a small (max 8 person) group, you will meet Palms international partners and long-term volunteers. Encounters are the ethical option to learn about development and support Australia's oldest lay Catholic international development organisation.

Book your place on the 14-day Encounter Tour 10-23 May 2027 here: palms.org.au/encounters.

Volunteers Needed! Catholic Community Connectors needed to assist with the Palms' Simplicity September campaign. https://www.volunteer.com.au/volunteering/249027/parish-and-catholic-community-connector-.

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All Saints

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

First Reading

Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see v.6

(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its people.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St John
We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:28

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Communion Antiphon

Matthew 5:8-10

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Next Week's Readings

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First Reading	Wisdom 6:12-16
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel Acclamation	Matthew 24:42. 44
Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13

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