



JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~


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

· SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT · YEAR B · 25 FEBRUARY 2024 ·

Parish Presbytery

Parish Priest: Fr Gerard Mackie PP
Postal Address: PO Box 277
BELMONT NSW 2280
Presbytery Phone: 02 4945 1244

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
Office Phone: 02 4945 4402
Email: elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Facebook: [Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish-East Lake Macquarie](https://www.facebook.com/Jesus-the-Good-Shepherd-Parish-East-Lake-Macquarie)
Parish Webpage: Please use QR Code to access parish webpage at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au>


Columbarium:

All enquiries via Parish Office

Office Hours

Monday: 8:00AM to 3:30PM
Wednesday: **C L O S E D**
Thursday: 2:00PM to 4:30PM

Schools

St Francis Xavier's Catholic Primary School Belmont

Principal: Mrs Danielle Reed
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 Number: 02 4979 1200
Email: chancery@mn.catholic.org.au
Website: www.mn.catholic.org.au

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekday Masses

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

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6:00PM Swansea
Sunday: 7:30AM Windale
9:00AM Belmont

Rosary

We invite everyone to join in and pray the Rosary daily after the 8:30AM weekday Mass from Monday to Saturday.

Feast Days

18 Mar Saint Patrick, Bishop
19 Mar Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
24 Mar Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
28 Mar Mass of the Lord's Supper
29 Mar Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
30 Mar The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The parish continues to follow relevant health advice. The following information is provided so that parishioners and visitors may know what to expect while attending Mass.

- ✓ NSW Health still recommends **physical distancing**.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** is recommended and provided.
- ✓ The wearing of a face **mask** can help protect you and those around you. Masks are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ Pick up your **bulletin** and take it home with you afterwards. We no longer re-use bulletins.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Select your **seat** and allow space between families / households.
- ✓ **Singing** is permissible.
- ✓ Parishes can now use liturgical ministers - **readers, servers, etc.**
- ✓ **Procession of Gifts** may take place as directed by our Priest.
- ✓ The **Sign of Peace** remains contactless except between those residing in the same household.
- ✓ The distribution of **Communion** during Mass continues to present a risk. Please maintain a single line. In general, two (2) ministers (including the Priest) are adequate to distribute the Lord's Body.
 - The **Communion host** can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. Since the latter is deemed high risk, please proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line.
 - The **Precious Blood** is restricted to Priests only.
- ✓ The **collection plate** has resumed during Mass. Thank you for your continued support.
 - First Collection supports all our Diocesan Priests.
 - Second Collection supports our parish operating costs.
- ✓ **Exit** whilst maintaining physical distancing.

Parish Office

When visiting the Parish Office:

- ✓ For your safety, use the footpath and **do not** walk through the garden.
 - ✓ All on-site visitors are required to sign-in.
 - ✓ NSW Health still recommends physical distancing be maintained if entering a building.
 - ✓ Please use hand sanitizer. Face masks are available if needed.
- Please do not visit if you are unwell. We can assist you by post, phone, or email during normal office hours.

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick

Masses with the Anointing of the Sick is available. See Fr Gerard 1514 The Anointing of the Sick "is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived."

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism can be celebrated: however, in the current circumstances Baptism can only be celebrated by the pouring of water and not by immersion. Baptism enquiries may be made via the Presbytery or 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 meeting is on Saturday 2 March 2024. 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
- Swansea: Saturday evening before Mass

Prayer Requests

Please pray for

Sick: Sr Catherine Grant, John and Joan Swift, Baby Carter McGie, Elaine Toohey.

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

Recently Deceased: Janice Honeysett.

Anniversaries: Phil Bernasconi, Patricia McTaggart, Dianne Taylor.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. ☩ May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed 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.

Intentions

Pope Francis' Prayer

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/>

February's Intention is for the Terminally Ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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.

Project Compassion Sunday



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter



Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they

don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy. © 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 our 'New to the Parish?' flyer.

Live Stream

Our Parish Mass continues to be livestreamed. This means the Mass is recorded and available via [Facebook](#).

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email [Fr Gerard](#).

Thank You

A special thank you to everyone who attended Deacon Solomon's farewell Mass and supper.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 28 February due to a Safeguarding meeting and will re-open after 2:00PM on Thursday due to another meeting.

Bulletin Notices

All items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM Wednesday.

Sacramental Program 2024

Our **FIRST PENANCE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME** begins soon. This programme is for children in Year 3 or above. There are 3 meetings: Thursday 22 February, Thursday 29 February and Thursday 7 March at Belmont Church Narthex starting at 6:30PM. These meetings are for the children with a parent or guardian. Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate to the first meeting. A copy of **Youcat for Kids** is needed for this programme (\$35 each). These will be available at the first meeting. If you cannot attend any of the three lessons this time, the programme will be held again at the end of this year. Children will have to have completed this programme to progress to the Confirmation and First Holy Communion Programmes.
Fr Gerard Mackie.

Stations of the Cross

The next Stations of the Cross will be at Windale following the 8:30AM Mass this Tuesday at 9:00AM.

Lenten Books

PIETÀ is an exquisite 80-page (full-colour A5 book). Books are available from the Parish Office. Cost is \$9.00 per book.

Lenten Groups

Groups have commenced and are held weekly. All are welcome.
Tuesdays Contact Joan M 0476 636 750.
Thursdays Contact Jan M 0438 252 657. Material provided free.

World Day of Prayer

Belmont - World Day of Prayer for the Belmont area will be held on Friday 1 March 2024 at All Saints Anglican Church 24 Church Street Belmont at 10:00AM, morning tea to follow. The service will be held COVID-19 safe. All welcome. Speaker is Rev Marie Armstrong. Enquiries Helen 02 4945 3428 M 0428 974 174 or Lesley M 0492 964 800 (Anglican Community).

Swansea - The World Day of Prayer service for Swansea area will be held on Friday 1 March at St Peter's Anglican Church, Josephson Street Swansea commencing at 11:00AM. Speaker is Rev Alison Wooden. All are welcome to attend. Enquiries contact Mary M 0408 498 898 or Lyn (Anglican Parish) P 02 4971 2015.

Feast of St Patrick

After celebrating 8:30AM Mass at Swansea on 18 March (very Irish) St Vincent de Paul invites family and friends of the parish to a get together at Tides Restaurant 2 Belmont Street Swansea for morning tea. For more information or to RSVP contact Bev M 0499 432 211 or Glenda M 0409 922 790.

Heartfelt Handbags

Last year Margaret Parry and I visited the residents of Koraki and Woodburn to deliver presents lovingly made and donated by members of our parish. Many of these people have been displaced from their homes following the floods that occurred in the area more than two years ago. We are hoping to deliver handbags to the women of the region, and we are asking for your donations of handbags in good condition and toiletries that we can fill the bags with. Please place your donations in the boxes provided in the Swansea Church and School receptions. These will be delivered in time for Mother's Day. If you have any questions or suggestions call Nicki Graham M 0417 773 444.

Friendship Group

The next Friendship Group for singles will be held on Sunday 3 March 2024 at 12:00PM at Swansea RSL Bridge Street Swansea. RSVP before 5:00PM Thursday 29 February by contacting Mary on M 0408 498 898. Newcomers are welcome.

Diocesan News

Diocesan Library

We are excited to invite Library Patrons to the Diocesan Library located within the Diocesan Resource Centre, 12 Tudor Street Newcastle West (corner of Tudor and Parry Streets). While the space is yet to be officially opened, patrons will be able to physically access and borrow resources from Monday 26 February.

We have many formation opportunities that will be ongoing each month. On the first Friday of each month commencing the 1 March there is an opportunity for parents and children to join us in Storytime from 10:15AM – 11:00AM and at 1:00PM – 2:30PM patrons are invited to come together for Faith Formation. Each month Faith Formation will focus on a different theme, the emphasis in March is on Lent. In addition, on the last Friday of the month from 10:00AM – 12:00PM patrons are invited to a Human Library Experience where we listen and learn from others' life and encounters.

Library Opening Hours:

Monday - 10:00AM to 6:00PM
Friday – 10:00AM to 6:00PM
Saturday – 10:00AM to 2:00PM

Safeguarding Network Meeting

The meeting is for all promoters of safeguarding in parishes and parish leadership, including those members of pastoral councils. If you have any questions or to register, contact Noumali via E n.roddebyjenkins@mn.catholic.org.au or P 02 4979 1390.

Way of the Cross

This year's Ecumenical Way of the Cross, held on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, invites us into a multicultural journey of remembrance. As we relive the story of Jesus' Passion, we recall the stories that have brought us together. This event is a celebrated gathering of our wider community and one not to be missed.

When: Sunday 17 March, 3:00PM (gather from 2:00PM)
Where: St Joseph's Toronto Church, 140 Wangi Road Toronto

Other News

Carmel House Retreats 2024

- ✓1-3 March – Consecrated Life Weekend, Discernment Retreat
- ✓28-31 March – Light to the Nations, Easter Pilgrimage
- ✓1-5 April – Disciples School of Mission, Formation for Ministry
- ✓19-21 April – Emmaus, Silent Retreat
- ✓17-22 May – Banquet, Pentecost Intensive
- ✓15 June - Awake, Day Retreat
- ✓23-25 August – Wildfire, Holy Spirit Retreat
- ✓11-13 October – Springtime, Creative Retreat
- ✓2 November – Alight, Women's Day Retreat

For more contact Missionaries of God's Love Sisters - Carmel House E mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com or W mgl sisters.org

Second Sunday of Lent Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

OR Cf Psalm 24:6,2,22

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said;
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
You have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people;

in the courts of the house of the Lord;
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.



Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading	Exodus 20:1-17 Or Exodus 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel Acclamation	John 3:16
Gospel John	2:13-25