



# JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

~ East Lake Macquarie ~

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

· THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · YEAR B · 27 OCTOBER 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](mailto: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

## Office Hours

**Monday** 8:00AM to 3:30PM  
**Wednesday** 8:00AM to 4:30PM  
**Thursday** 11:30AM 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](mailto:admin@belmont.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website** [www.belmont.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:admin@swansea.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website** [www.swansea.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:admin@windale.catholic.edu.au)  
**Website** [www.windale.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:chancery@mn.catholic.org.au)  
**Website** [www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au)

## Liturgical Celebrations

### Weekday Masses

**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 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

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

## Mass at Jesus the Good Shepherd

The following information is provided to assist with reducing risk and so that parishioners and visitors may know what to expect while attending Mass.

- ✓ **Physical distancing** is still appropriate.
- ✓ The wearing of a face **mask** can help protect you and those around you. Masks are available at the church entrance.
- ✓ **Hand sanitiser** helps to reduce the spread of viruses and is provided.
- ✓ **Holy Water** is available and changed regularly.
- ✓ Pick up your **bulletin** and take it home with you afterwards. Bulletins are no longer re-used.
- ✓ Allow space between families when selecting your **seat**.
- ✓ **Singing** is permissible.
- ✓ Parishes can 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 - maintain a single line. In general, two (2) ministers, Priest and extraordinary Minister, are adequate to distribute the Lord's Body. The **Communion host** can be received in the hand, and on the tongue with care. The latter is deemed high risk, proceed to the Priest only and at the end of the line. The **Precious Blood** remains restricted to Priests.
- ✓ The **collection plate** has resumed during Mass. Thank you for your continued support. The First Collection supports all our Diocesan Priests, and the Second Collection supports our parish operating costs.

## Bulletin Notices

To avoid disappointment, all items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM on Wednesday.

## 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 when entering a building.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer and face masks are available if needed.

We can assist you by post, phone, or email during office hours.

## Sacraments

### Thinking of becoming Catholic?

See Fr Gerard or email [Fr Gerard](mailto:Fr.Gerard@mn.catholic.org.au).

### Anointing of the Sick

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 November 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:** Therese Smith, Geoff Brown, Baby Carter McGie.

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



### Recently Deceased:

**Anniversaries:** Ted McInerny, Jean McEnearney, Pat Nash.

*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.

## Pope Francis' 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 A SHARED MISSION

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

## 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 passage from the Gospel of Mark draws to a close a significant section of the gospel. It stretches from 8:22 to this passage, 10:52. Like other examples in the Gospel of Mark, the stories at the beginning and end of the section are related and shed light on what they surround. Like this passage, the event at the beginning of the section is an account of the healing of a blind man. Contained within the two healings of blindness, as we have seen over the last six weeks, is an extended lesson on discipleship. Within this section, Jesus speaks about his upcoming death on three occasions and each time the disciples display their own form of blindness when they fail to understand what Jesus is trying to tell them quite explicitly. In this section, we have heard that discipleship involves suffering and hardship; it means placing one's own needs last and the needs of others first; and that discipleship is all about faith.

In this healing of blind Bartimaeus, we see all the hallmarks of what Jesus has been trying to teach the disciples in the preceding episodes. As a blind man, Bartimaeus would be regarded as 'imperfect' – incomplete – and consequently in a permanent state of uncleanness. He would not be allowed to live within the bounds of normal society, nor have contact with people. So it is that Jesus encounters Bartimaeus on the side of the road, outside the city walls as he is leaving Jericho. Learning that it is Jesus passing by, Bartimaeus calls on Jesus to help him and the crowd tries to shut him up and remind him of his status. But Jesus calls Bartimaeus to him and, placing the needs of the other first, asks 'What do you want me to do for you?' When Bartimaeus makes his request, Jesus announces that it is his faith that has saved him and his sight is restored. Bartimaeus, like a good disciple, then follows Jesus on the road.

### Scriptural context – Blindness

Blindness is a powerful metaphor that is used repeatedly throughout scripture. It is almost always a metaphor for blindness of heart or blindness of mind rather than a purely physical affliction. There are multiple accounts of healing blindness in the gospel. Saul/Paul is blinded on the road to Damascus and only has his sight restored when he is baptised. The Pharisees are described as being 'blind fools' and there the prophets make numerous references to blind seeing as a sign of the Messiah's arrival. It is a very powerful image of being 'blind' to truth and 'blind' to the teaching of Jesus.

### Have you thought? On the side of the road ...

When Jesus encounters Bartimaeus he is sitting by the side of the road – a reject of society sitting off to the side as the world passes him by. There are times in all of our lives when we feel like this: hurt; ashamed; unloved; rejected; cast aside. It is at these moments in our lives that Jesus really wants to 'break through' into our experience. If we allow ourselves to hear his voice calling us to him, then we too can 'throw off our cloak' – our old life – and join him on the road.

### Living the Gospel – Bartimaeus, a model?

Bartimaeus is a man who has almost nothing in life. His blindness has made him outcast and he is reduced to begging on the side of the road. When he is called to Jesus he jumps up and casts off what may well be his only real possession – his cloak. Yet what he does have in abundance is faith and hope. When asked what he wants Jesus to do, his answer may seem obvious, but his desire to see goes beyond physical sight. He asks for the sight of one who truly believes and to whom the truth of Jesus is revealed. In this way, he is a model to all who would be disciples.

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](mailto:childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au).

### For further information visit:

Website: [www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au](http://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.

### Live Stream

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

\*\*\*\*\* Parish Morning Tea \*\*\*\*\*



Join us for Coffee after Mass

Join in a morning tea at **Windale Church Hall** after 7:30AM Mass TODAY, Sunday 27 October 2024. All are welcome. Enquiries: Sr Maria.

### Special Mass

You are warmly invited to attend an anniversary Mass in honour of Charles Gordon O'Neill, who co-founded St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. This special Mass will be a time to remember his remarkable contribution and to pray for his canonisation which we hope will happen so. Refreshments after Mass

Date: Friday 8 November 2024 | Time: 8:30AM

Venue: St Patrick's Church Swansea

### November Mass Offerings

November is the month when we especially remember our loved ones who have gone before us. Envelopes are available in your planned giving pack and at the church entrance.

### **CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL THANK YOU**

We would like to thank you for your generosity supporting the Church in Mongolia and House of Mercy. To date we have raised \$1,995.00

**Thanks to your kindness, people like Chuluunbaatar will have access to the support they need to help them get back on their feet. Your gift will also support a variety of Church programs around the world.**

To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit <mailto:catholicmission.org.au/our-work>. Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news. If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at [catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](https://www.catholicmission.org.au/mongolia). Your action will make a profound change on people's lives.

Appeal envelopes are still available. For **electronic transfers** please go directly to the website <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/ways-to-donate>

### Rosary

October is the month of the Rosary. Copies of "How to say the Rosary" leaflets are available at the church entrance.

### God's Word Daily Reflections 2025

The NEW 2025 edition has arrived and is available for purchase from the Parish Office. Cost is \$20.00. Limited number of copies available.

### Advent Program - The Light

Copies of the Advent Program - The Light – are now available for purchase. Cost is \$6.00.

### Parish Insurance

This year our parish building insurance is \$38,000 and payment is due now. Our current income covers week to week expenses with little to spare. The parish has applied for financial aid from the Diocese and is waiting for a response. In addition, we still have five (5) years of volunteer insurance invoices which still need to be paid in full.

## Parish Groups and Committees

### Breaking Open the Word

You are invited to join in on the first Thursday of the month after the 8:30AM Mass to reflect on the Sunday Gospel of the week. Reflective material is free. Morning tea afterwards. Our next group meets on Thursday 7 November. No need to RSVP. Enquiries: Jan M 0438 252 657.

### Choir

A choir has been formed to sing Latin Gregorian chant occasionally at the 9:00AM Mass at St Francis Xavier's Church, Belmont. If anyone has an interest in joining the choir, contact Andrew on M 0405 772 779.

### Family Group Movement

Enquiries: John and Pauline via P 02 4946 7460 or E [mcgraths\\_12@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgraths_12@hotmail.com).

### Friendship Group

The next Friendship Group for singles lunch will be held on Sunday 3 November at 12:00PM at the Valentine Bowling Club 17A Valentine Crescent. RSVP before Thursday 31/10/2024 by contacting Mary on M 0408 498 898. Newcomers are welcome.

### Social Justice Committee

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 Paul via M 0418 240 604.

### 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 0424 695 721, Swansea- Anne 0439 814 874, Windale - Brian 0407 125 338.

## Diocesan News

### Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade

On the first Saturday of every month, you are welcome to join the Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade at 10:30AM at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The group meets after the 9:15AM Mass and Novena, and Reconciliation is offered too.

### Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

Awaiting Hope, our diocesan Advent reflection resource, invites us to use mystagogical reflection as our way of encountering Christ in the Advent gospels. It invites us to focus on the presence of Christ in our experience and in the living tradition of our faith, to connect it to life now and to be changed by it. To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/advent-christmas-1/>

### Formation Films at the Diocesan Resource Centre

On Saturday 2 November, everyone is welcome to join us as we watch, "The Miracle Club" at the Diocesan Resource Centre for our next Formation Films event. The movie follows the story of three generations of close friends, Lily (Maggie Smith), Eileen (Kathy Bates), and Dolly (Agnes O'Casey) of Ballygar, outside Dublin, who win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes, that place of miracles that draws millions of visitors each year. Register now! <https://forms.office.com/r/1jyLH5GsB>

## Other News

### Aid to the Church in Need

November Masses for your deceased loved ones can be arranged through *Aid to the Church in Need* which arranges over 2 million Masses each year, supporting one in eight priests worldwide. Mass offering flyers are located at the church entrance or alternatively, visit <http://www.aidtochurch.org/masses> or call 1800 101 201 to arrange Masses.

## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;  
turn to the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

### First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-9

#### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.*

The Lord says this:

Shout with joy for Jacob!  
Hail the chief of nations!  
Proclaim! Praise! Shout:  
The Lord has saved his people,  
the remnant of Israel!  
See, I will bring them back  
from the land of the North  
and gather them from the far ends of earth;  
all of them: the blind and the lame,  
women with child, women in labour:  
a great company returning here.  
They had left in tears,  
I will comfort them as I lead them back;  
I will guide them to streams of water,  
by a smooth path where they will not stumble.  
For I am a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my first-born son.

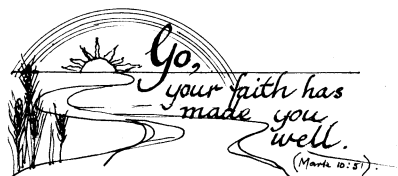
The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

#### (R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

- When the Lord delivered Zi on from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs.
- The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.
- Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.
- They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves.



### Second Reading

Hebrews 5:1-6

#### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*You are a priest forever in the line of Melchizedek.*

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.

The Word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

See 2 Timothy 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done a way with death,  
and brought us life through his gospel.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Master, grant that I may see.*

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help  
and exult in the name of our God.



## Next Week's Readings

### Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading	Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2
Second Reading	Hebrews 7:23-28
Gospel Acclamation	John 14:23
Gospel	Mark 12:28-34