



PARISHES IN PARTNERSHIP

St. Mary's Maffra [Newry & Dargo]

St. Michael's Heyfield-Cowwarr

Phone: 03 5147 1921 email: Maffra@cdsale.org.au

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs - 9.00am-3.00pm.

For Emergencies: St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale, Phone 5144 4100

Diocesan/parish website: https://www.cdsale.org.au/maffra_heyfield



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A, 9TH August, 2020

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr. Siju Xavier

Email: Siju.Xavier@cdsale.org.au

PRIEST EMIRITUS:

Fr. Frank Young

PARISH SECRETARY:

Willie Schoenmaekers

WEEKEND MASSES: Heyfield

Saturday Vigil: -6.00pm

1st & 3rd Sunday Cowwarr: 11.00am

WEEKEND MASSES: Maffra

Sunday: 9.00am

2nd & 4th Sunday - Newry: 11.00am

5th Sunday - Dargo: 12.00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

HEYFIELD

Tuesday: -9.30am

MAFFRA

Wednesday: 5.00pm

Thursday: -9.30am

Friday: 10.00am

2nd Friday Stretton Park 10.00am

Saturday: 9.30am

RECONCILIATION:

MAFFRA

Saturday: After Mass 10.00am

HEYFIELD:

Saturday: Before Mass 5.20pm

OR any other time by request

EXPOSITION: Maffra

Wednesday: After 5.00pm Mass

BAPTISMS:

During or After the Vigil / Sunday Mass

MARRIAGE:

At least six months' notice requested.

PARISH SCHOOLS

ST. MICHAEL'S HEYFIELD

Principal: Jenny Miller

Davis St. Heyfield - 3858

Phone: 5148 2514

ST. MARY'S MAFFRA

Principal: Jason Slattery

4-12 Duke St. Maffra - 3860

Phone: 5147 1334

Catholic Care: 1800 522 076

Safe Steps: 1800 015 188

Facebook: [facebook/dioceseofsale](https://www.facebook.com/dioceseofsale)

My dear parishioners of Heyfield-Cowwarr and Maffra, Greetings.

As you probably did, it was with great distress and sadness that I too received the news from our government regarding the heightened restrictions placed on us due to Covid-19 spread. Most of those restrictions in Metropolitan Melbourne have taken effect on Sunday evening, and for us Regional Victorians, they took effect from Wednesday midnight. I am certain that you all are aware of the ramifications of those restrictions imposed on places of worship, as well. They all must remain closed for the restricted period of time. This means No Public Liturgies until further notice; with severe restrictions on weddings and funerals. Very Rev. Fr. Peter Slater has issued guidelines which I attach at the end of this bulletin for your information.

How disappointing it was for us in April that we were unable to celebrate one of the most significant feasts of the church – the Paschal Triduum; not to mention other holy days of obligation.

In May second week, when the restrictions were eased by the government, we gradually began celebrating public liturgies, especially the Mass with 10 people and moved to 20 as the restrictions were further eased, with a view to move to 50 and 100 and finally to the freedom we all longed for. When we began Mass with 20 people, and increased the number of weekend Masses to cater for more people, there was an overwhelming support from you all. Many thanks. I was delighted to see the booking sheets getting filled up quickly and at the same time disheartened for turning people away as the number of people could gather was limited to 20. I thank all who helped with the bookings and the celebration of liturgies.

Dear friends, another special time is here for all of us to continue to establish or deepen a personal relationship with our Good Lord by meditation on the Scriptures and for those who have the means, attending Liturgies livestreamed from various parishes from our diocese and beyond. No doubt, it is a challenging time; it is a difficult time. God never abandons his children. God is good.

As St. Paul exhilarates us by saying, "*Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.*" Romans 8:35-37.

Trusting this, let us continue to be united in prayers for one another and look after each other in this special time. I shall be communicating with you through our parish bulletins as promptly as I can.

It is my obligation and indeed a privilege to offer you *missa pro populo* [Mass for people] which I shall be diligently carrying out without fail. I ask you to pray for me too. Keep well and stay blessed.

With every good wish and prayer, Fr. Siju Xavier, PP.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:-

VINNIES – MAFFRA – COVID - 19

In response to Covid – 19, [Maffra Vinnies is continuing its welfare work, but has for now suspended its Monthly Sales and has closed receiving ALL donations of Clothes, toys, furniture etc.](#) Thank you for your understanding.

Care for the Sick: If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and would like the Eucharist brought to them, please advise us on 5147 1921. **We pray for ALL who suffer (at present) in body, mind or spirit:**

Gerald Zed Hurley, Belinda Weatherley, Archie Schacht, Coral Justice, Julie Frew, Peter Smyth, Fr. Brian O’Connor, John Phelan, Lyn McLindin, Ann Martin, Lorraine Weatherley, Evelyn Bourke, Gerry Gray, Lee Allman, Father Frank, Maree Welsh, and all those who seek our prayers.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, **PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 ASSEMBLY 1 HAS BEEN POSTPONED.**

Phase I: Listening and Dialogue

More than 222,000 people participated in Phase I: Listening and Dialogue, contributing 17,457 submissions. The voices of the faithful help all of us to understand something of the historical experience and the current reality of the Catholic Church in Australia. This gathered data also reveals some deeper hopes and questions, and the diverse yearnings, that we are now challenged to consider together.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD:-
Anniversaries:**

Percy Lee, Allen Pawley, Herb Bennett, Kevin Jongebloed, Clare Anderson, Janina Uzynski, Len Tudor, Brendon Hackwill, Edward (Ted) Clark, Elizabeth (Betty) Hill, John Coleman, Anthony (Tony) Dowdell, Ted Desmond, Blore Family (Madge), B.A. Santa Maria (Bob), Josephine Lincoln.
Bishop Patrick Lyons, Frs. Peter J MC Cormack, Joseph Martin.

**"An Act of
Spiritual Communion
My Jesus,**

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

**Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen."**

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Any children, young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are concerned about any form of abuse, or believe that someone is at significant risk, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish

Safeguarding Officers. Contact Via the Parish Office: 03 5147 1921.

[Adapted from Moe parish]

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

ST. MARY’S: Terry Donahoe
ST. MICHAEL’S: Ed O’Brien

❖ What Should I do if I Can’t go to Mass?

Catholics are encouraged to make a ‘spiritual communion’. St. John Paul II writes that “it is good to *cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist.* This was the origin of the practice of ‘spiritual communion’, which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: ‘When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.’” (*Ecclesia Eucharistia*, no. 34).

❖ How Do I Make a Spiritual Communion?

Below are recommendations for how to make a ‘spiritual communion’ when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.

Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.

Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at usccb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our [YouTube channel](#). Additionally, a weekly televised Sunday Mass is available to watch at adw.org/tvmass.

Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.

Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Pray one of the following prayers of spiritual communion [see above left]

Close with the sign of the cross

Entrance Antiphon:

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading: 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Communion Antiphon:

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Is 56:1.6-7

Second Reading: Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

Gospel: Mt 15:21-28

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Keep Rowing!

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to 'the other side', the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory.

Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures:

'Do not be afraid.'

COVID-19 Restrictions update from the Diocesan Administrator

4th August 2020

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Chancery and Parish Staff,

We are mindful of the personal and pastoral challenges the ever changing COVID pandemic is placing upon you and your people. As you will be aware some parishes are now in Stage Four and others commencing Stage Three with the wearing of masks now necessary for all us.

Those under Stage Four (*Local Government Areas of Cardinia and Casey*) will be mindful of restrictions to their movement within 5 kilometres, essential shopping, exercise of one hour per day, no personal visitors other than approved essential workers and the nightly curfew from 8pm.

Stage Three restrictions (*all other Local Government Areas in Diocese*) require us to 'stay at home' unless for work, medical appointments, compassionate care of others or essential shopping.

The following might be of assistance to you in clarifying our situation under the religious/worship:

Pastoral Visitation to the Sick and Dying: Home visitation only for grave pastoral reasons. All hygiene precautions must be followed. Viaticum and anointing of the sick following the protocols of the relevant hospital and aged-care facilities.

Celebration of Mass = Priest and only those required to celebrate the liturgy: Priest (mask as you enter and removed during liturgy); Lector (may lower mask for reading); four additional people in the case of live-streaming all must wear masks; sanitiser must be used and available; social distancing required; usual hygiene measures must be undertaken following each celebration. COVID tracing details must be kept for all those who assist.

Baptisms: Must be postponed unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral reason (Can. 857;860).

Weddings: Stage Four zones cancelled except for compassionate grounds; Stage Three limited to 5 people (the couple, the witnesses and the celebrant).

Confirmation: Cancelled throughout this six-week period and until further notice.

Funerals: Limited in both Stage Four and Three zones to ten people plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Please note that Church buildings, adoration chapels and other buildings used for public prayer and religious services are to be closed for public safety.

Masses in family homes or other domestic settings are not permitted in this period.

Those parishes which have pastoral responsibility for hospitals and aged-care facilities are encouraged to make contact directly with the appropriate management to assess expectations and requirements. Given the high risk to the aged and vulnerable many facilities have introduced a total lock-down to external visitors; however, it may be possible to speak with parishioners via the telephone to provide prayer and reassurance.

We appreciate the above restrictions will place particular demands upon the grieving and your ability to engage with people as you would prefer. We are all mindful of our shared efforts to which we have been called to aspire in the hope the measures introduced will significantly reduce the community spread of the virus.

Thank you for your constant witness to your people and one another.

May Our Lady of Perpetual Help, intercede for us.



Fr Peter Slater

Diocesan Administrator.