PARISHES IN PARTNERSHIP – MAFFRA/ COWWARR-HEYFIELD
St. Mary’s (Maffra); St. Ita’s (Newry); St. Joseph’s (Dargo)
St. Michael’s (Heyfield); St. Brigid’s (Cowwarr);
Administrator: Father Darren Howie
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Phone Maffra 5147 1921 - Fax 5147 1476
For Emergencies: St. Mary’s Cathedral, Sale, Phone 51444100

2nd Sunday of Advent: Year C – 6th December, 2015

Our Sunday Liturgy:
Introduction:
Eagerness to receive the Good News is a strong theme in today’s liturgy. We gather to hear the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and to celebrate its reality for our lives in our Eucharist.

Entrance Antiphon (or Hymn):
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your heart.

1st Reading:
A reading from the prophet Baruch: 5: 1-9
Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Responsorial Psalm:
The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

2nd Reading:
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians: 1: 3-6, 8-11.
Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel:
All people shall see the salvation of God.

Mystery of Faith:
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim Your Death, O Lord, until You come again.

Communion Antiphon:
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Message to take home:
Driving a car requires that we continually make corrections to stay on the road and to avoid oncoming traffic, after a while it becomes a habit and we are not even aware that we are doing it. In a similar way we need to learn to keep listening to God.

Learning to be silent takes for granted that we are not always silent before God, in fact there are many times when we are terribly distracted at prayer. We should not let our distractions become further distractions for example if we find our minds wandering at Mass rather than getting annoyed with ourselves, which is a further distraction, we should gently bring our hearts and minds back to God, such is the teaching of St. Francis De Sales. There will be times when we may feel that our prayer is unproductive. God often achieves His greatest in us when we are tired, distracted, but still make the effort to pray. That is why it is so important that we persevere in prayer.

We read in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church regarding difficulties of prayer. (574. What are the difficulties in prayer?)

Distraction is a habitual difficulty in our prayer. It takes our attention away from God and can also reveal what we are attached to. Our heart therefore must humbly turn to the Lord. Prayer is often affected by dryness. Overcoming this difficulty allows us to cling to the Lord in faith, even without any feeling of consolation. Acedia is a form of spiritual laziness due to relaxed vigilance and a lack of custody of the heart.
WEEKEND MASSES:

MAFFRA: Sunday 9.00am
HEYFIELD: Saturday 6.00pm
COWWARR: 1st & 3rd Sunday 11.00am
NEWRY: 2nd & 4th Sunday 11.00am
DARGO: 5th Sunday 12 noon

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Maffra:
** MONDAYS: availability will be announced at Masses the Sunday prior. **
8th Dec: Tues 9.30am Whole School Mass with Fr. Ken Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9th Dec: Wed 5.00pm followed by ½ hour Adoration & Reconciliation
10th Dec: Thur. 9.30am
11th Dec: Fri. 10.15am Stretton Park (1st Friday of the month - Healing and Anointing)
12th Dec: Sat. 9.30am followed by ½ Reconciliation

Heyfield:
8th Dec: Tues. 10.15am Laurina Lodge

RECONCILIATION:
Maffra: Saturday – For Half Hour after 9.30am Mass (And any other time by request).
Heyfield: 5.20pm-5.45pm prior to Saturday evening Mass

RECITATION OF HOLY ROSARY:
Maffra: Before Masses in May and October
Heyfield: Tuesdays at 9.15am (Except on 2nd Tuesday - at Laurina Lodge 10am)
Newry: Thursday at 7.30pm
Cowwarr: Wednesday at 9.45am

COWWARR: 1st Friday of the month – night
HOLY ROSARY: Before Saturday Masses at Heyfield
Maffra: 1st Thursday – 9am before Mass (for Mothers and unborn babies)
Newry: Every Thursday – 7.30pm (No Rosary during January)

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED:

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Pat McMahon, Leo Dwyer, Evelyn Bourke, Chas Bagguley, Geraldine, Ann Martin, Monika Dyblik, Fr. Bernie O’Brien, Rosa Pappas, Lee Allman, Gerry Gray, Judith Shaw, Tao Pham, Father Frank, Helen Garrigan, Maree Welsh, Laura Mowat, Xavier Mills, Helen Bokulic, and all those who seek our prayers.

JOSEPHITE CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS: Available at Maffra Piety Stall.

PERSONAL ADVENT REFLECTIONS: The reflection booklets for Advent can be used in a group or individually. Anyone wishing to take a booklet is welcomed to do so. Booklets will be available at the Piety stall for $3.00 each. Heyfield/Cowwarr Parishioners are welcomed to contact the Office 51 47 1921.

MASS AND ANOINTING FOR THE ELDERLY, HOUSEBOUND AND SICK PARISHIONERS OF THE WHOLE PARISHES: Sat – 5th Dec. St Mary’s Hall at 2pm. Please invite all known parishioners in the area and please bring a plate to share. If assistance is needed please call the office. 51 47 1921.

ST MARY’S SCHOOL: Graduation Mass at 6pm on Thursday 10th December and End of Year Mass at 11.45am Tuesday 15th.

MAFFRA PARISH TEA: will be on Monday 7th December, 6pm at the Macalister Hotel. Why not come along for a Christmas get together.
CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE (Maffra) will enjoy their annual pre-Christmas Lunch at the Macalister Hotel on Tuesday, 8th Dec. from 12 noon. Anyone is welcome to join in – ordering from the board. A short monthly meeting will follow at approx. 1.30p.m. Members reminded that subscriptions are due!

**2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** Thursday 17th December at 7pm with Father Howie and Father Ken.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR PRACTISE: MAFFRA:** Wednesday 9th & 16th December at 7.30pm. at St Mary's Maffra.

**PARISH CHILDREN’S MASS & FAMILY PICNIC:** 13th Dec, Newry 11am. Please bring a picnic lunch to share & bathers for the children if hot….a wading pool will be provided.

**END OF YEAR MASS ST MICHAEL’S PRIMARY SCHOOL HEYFIELD:**
Tuesday 15th December 6pm End of School Year & Graduation Mass St Michael's Church Heyfield. All parishioners and families are welcome to attend. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO 9.30am MASS THAT MORNING. (ie, the 6pm Mass replaces the 9.30am Mass for that day only)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Our St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will take a different tack this year. A giving tree will be placed at the back of the church during December and it will have cards with suggested gifts that parishioners may wish to purchase for distribution to the needy on it. Our intention is to collect and distribute the gifts during the week prior to Christmas.

**THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS** Cenacle Prayer group meetings have now concluded for 2015. Over the past 11 years we have been humbled and encouraged by the many prayer requests we have received locally and further afield for priests, religious, seminarians, vocations and other important intentions. Prayer meetings re-commence on 4th February 2016. Everyone welcome. For queries please contact Bernie on 5147 2487.
DIARY

Mon  7th Dec – Parish Tea – Macalister Hotel – 6pm. All Welcome!
Tues 8th Dec – CWL Luncheon – Macalister Hotel – 12noon
Sun  13th Dec – Parish Children’s Mass & Family Picnic – 11am
Wed 16th Dec – Carols in the Morning – St Andrew’s Uniting Church – 10am
Thur 17th Dec – 2nd Rite of Reconciliation – 7pm
Sat  19th Dec – Newry Christmas Nativity Play – 7pm for 7.30pm start.

ORDINARIAITVE SERVICES:
Mass: Sunday: Heyfield: 10am
Mass & Adoration: Wednesday: Cowwarr: 10am
Evensong & Benediction: 4th Sunday of the month: Heyfield: 4pm
Mass: 2nd Saturday of the Month - 11am Mirboo North Catholic Church

DIOCESE OF SALE - THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM: 13th DECEMBER, 2015
This week on The Journey Fr Stephen Varney reflects on the Gospel for the 3rd Sunday in Advent; Sr Hilda Scott OSB reminds us that “In our emptiness, God can truly hear us.” This week Tracey Coombes sings for us from her “Cry Out” Advent CD and Peter Gilmore reflects on the challenges of social media in our modern world. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

NEWRY NAVITTY PLAY:  Practices will be held in the Clyne barn from 7th November at 4.30pm – 5.30pm. The play will be held at the Clyne farm Newry on Saturday 19th December. Commencing at 7.30pm. All Prep and Primary children are welcome to attend. Enquiries Christine Clyne 5145 1414, Christa Dwyer 5145 1415.

CAROLS IN THE MORNING:  You are invited to join the Uniting Churches for a Morning Tea followed by Carol Service. Wednesday 16th December at 10am. St Andrew’s Uniting Church, Maffra. The Maffra Primary Shool Violin Ensemble and Choir will be providing items. Everyone will have the chance to celebrate the coming of Christmas singing carols old and new. Enquiries: Rev Sandra Houghton – 0428649243. Please let them know if you are bringing a group or if you require assistance. They have been promised that the road works will not interfere.

ACTION FOR LIFE
Life & Family National Conference
Archbishop Julian Porteous will be featuring along with many other guest speakers at the Family Life International (FII) Conference to be held at the Lake Hume Resort, Albury, from 21st to the 24th January 2016. It is the largest conference of its kind in Australia. Action for Life members look forward to meeting others at the event. The Conference is a unique opportunity to combine education, inspiration and fellowship with national and international pro-life and pro-family esteemed speakers. Everyone is welcome. For more details and how to book, please see the flyers in the church foyer or www.fli.org.au

Worried by a present or past pregnancy? We may be able to help with referrals.

Please contact Elaine on 5144 2762

Action for Life