



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



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A, 17TH May, 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

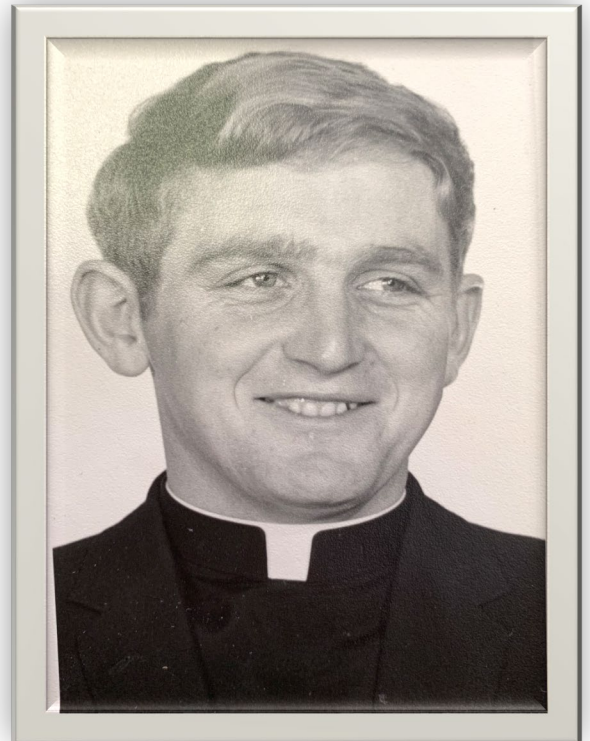
Catholic Care: 1800 522 076

Safe Steps: 1800 015 188

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

“The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honour of his divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls.” – St. Alphonsus Liguori

*Dear Fr Young,
your abiding
devotion and
faithful service
to the Lord
has touched
countless
hearts and
inspired so
many souls –
what blessing
you are to all
of us.*



Ad Multos Annos

**Congratulations &
God's blessings to you,
Fr. Frank Young
as you celebrate 50 Golden Years
of the Priesthood on 23 May.**

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.

Praying the Rosary

Find out more about how to pray the Rosary, and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

<https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/>



WEEKLY COLLECTION

PRESBYTERY:	\$ N/A
ST. MARY'S PG:	\$ N/A
ST. MICHAEL'S PG:	\$ N/A

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD:- Brian George BELL

Anniversaries:

Annabella Harkin, Jim Merrett, Eileen Edwards, Mary Higgins Snr, Dulcie Watts, Francis Anton, Frank Wieloch, Marjery Kennedy, Patricia Hurley, Charles Fermio, Thomas Henebery, Vincent Cummins, Sr. Irene McCormack, Frs. Robert Mead, Martin Roche.

"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 below).

Close with the sign of the cross

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.
Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts,
and always have your answer ready for

people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

In these final weeks of Eastertide the thought of the liturgy turns increasingly to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. This is foreshadowed today both in the First Reading, which tells of a 'mini-Pentecost' occurring in Samaria, and in the Gospel, where Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' which the disciples are to receive. Central to the vision of the Acts of the Apostles is a sense of the Gospel as fanning out from Jerusalem, to all Judea, Samaria and (at the hands especially of Paul) to 'the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). Today's First Reading, Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, describes both the evangelising activity of Philip (not the apostle Philip but one of the Seven elected to assist the Apostles, as told last week [Acts 6:1-7]), and the follow-up activity on the part of the leading Apostles Peter and John. The Samaritans had received the Word and been baptised 'in the name of the Lord Jesus'. But it was only when the Apostles laid hands on them that they received the Holy Spirit. This rather curious 'separation' between baptism and the coming of the Spirit in a way foreshadows the sacrament of Confirmation. However, the 'separation' should not be pressed too rigidly. Fundamentally, Christian Baptism does impart the Spirit. The narrative of Acts at this point probably has in mind a more experiential ('Pentecostal'!) awareness of the gift.

The Gospel, John 14:15-21, presents a further extract from Jesus' long discourse at the Last Supper. As we noted last week, the discourse oscillates back and forth between two understandings of Jesus' 'going away' and 'return'. On the more immediate level there is the 'going away' of his death and the 'return' of his appearances as risen Lord on the third day. At another level, the discourse addresses his more permanent 'going away' and absence from the disciples following his final return to the Father. The return 'on that day' of which he speaks would then be his return on the last day at the end of time.

But here there is more to say. The Fourth Gospel plays down the traditional expectation of Jesus' coming at the last day in the direction of emphasising his abiding presence in the community. This lies behind the statement: 'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.' In contrast to 'the world' (unbelievers), for whom Jesus after his death will cease to exist, believers will 'see' him and 'also will live' in the sense of here and now experiencing his presence in the community and sharing his risen life.

Thus the passage continues to address directly the situation of the disciples in the period when his appearances as risen Lord have ceased, the situation of the Church that prevails to this day. Naturally, the disciples will feel the loss of his comforting physical presence. But if they grasp the sense in which he will continue to be present, they should not feel 'orphaned'.

In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' that he will ask the Father to give. (The implication is that Jesus himself has been a 'Paraclete' for the disciples during his earthly life.) The essential idea behind 'Paraclete' is that of someone who stands beside you in time of difficulty, providing a comforting, supportive and encouraging presence. One thinks perhaps of a highly respected person whom you might ask to go to court with you and act as character witness. Such is the idea that the Gospel applies here (and in several other places) to the Spirit. Though Jesus may no longer be physically present, the comfort and assurance his presence gave the disciples during his lifetime will continue in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In the face of constant trial and rejection from the world, the Paraclete will be for the disciples 'the Spirit of Truth' in the sense of imparting to them a conviction that what they believe and hold on to is indeed reality in the most profound sense. We come close here to the fine statement in the Second Reading, 1 Peter 3:15-18: 'Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that is within you'.

Finally, we should note the way in which the Gospel begins and ends with the sense that believers 'have entered into the same reciprocity of love that unites the Father and the Son' (C. K. Barrett). Though the language may suggest it to be the case, the Gospel does not mean that God's love is conditional upon human observance of the commandments. The essential commandment is that of love. What the Gospel is saying is that when the community is indeed one where love prevails, the atmosphere of love that it experiences is nothing other than a sharing in the communion of love that is the Godhead.



Wednesday 13 May 2020

Members of the Catholic community in Victoria,
The Catholic Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Throughout this situation of the Coronavirus pandemic our prayers and solidarity have been with you all, and will continue to guide the challenging decisions we have been called to make.

Despite the many weeks of worry and social restrictions, we are delighted that as of 11.59pm yesterday, Tuesday 12 May 2020, churches in Victoria may now be open in certain circumstances.

This opportunity for small gatherings and for some quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of Our Lord is a gentle first step in the right direction, and rightly a moment of rejoicing for God's people. We are pleased to work constructively with our communities to make appropriate adjustments. Strict restrictions still govern our actions due to the risks of COVID-19 and we are all being asked to show patience and fortitude.

Each Diocese is communicating with their parishes about how various ministries, including sacramental care, will be conducted in this first stage of the easing of social restrictions. We wish to be fully compliant with the directives that apply across Victoria, so that we ensure the protection of elderly and vulnerable people, and work together for the common good of our communities.

The conditions under which a church can be open include a collection of contact details (for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary), strict monitoring of numbers, ongoing hygiene requirements, publicising the scheduled times for private worship, and public worship limited to ten people at a time.

Arrangements for liturgies and access to churches while ensuring these conditions are met will vary, depending on the facilities and resources that are available in each particular community. We recognise that deciding on these arrangements and putting them in place is not straightforward, and we ask for patience and understanding during this time.

(Continued overleaf...)

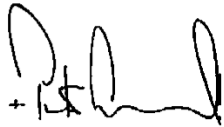
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This new stage of restrictions is subject to changing guidance that we receive from the State Government authorities, and we are advised this will be reviewed at the end of May.

After a difficult time for all of us, including many new pressures on families and great challenges for healthcare and emergency workers, we share in the disappointment that social restrictions are likely to continue for some time.

Nevertheless, we act with one accord in doing what is most prudent and loving for the sake of those most susceptible to the virus. We rejoice that Christ is with us and will walk with us as we begin the long journey out of the current stage of restrictions.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



Rev Peter Slater
DELEGATE OF DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR,
SALE

Further Thoughts / Anticipated Questions

The decision about having parishioners attend Mass is one for pastors to make.

Keep in mind the following:

Social distancing is to be observed. That means 1.5 metres between people. This could be by ensuring every second pew is empty. Members of a household can be nearer.

It also means restricting those present to 10, plus those required, such as: a celebrant, a deacon, an altar server, 1/2 readers, a musician and singer, and those needed to record / broadcast the service. The total number must not exceed those allowed by the 4 square metre requirement.

Baptisms may be celebrated with up to ten present. Only one child per ceremony (unless siblings), refresh the water, use cotton buds dipped in the oil bottle rather than an oil stock. Weddings can include ten guests and funerals in a church can have twenty.

Signage will be needed, for example: to indicate entrance and exit (which must be kept separate), to indicate the maximum number allowed to be present, to keep people apart (as in many shops). Signs could indicate which pews should be empty.

Beware of people bunching up near doorways, or in coming to communion, or going to collection bowls. Collection bowls should not be passed from one person to another, they should be in an obvious place

near the sanctuary and people could be invited to make their offering during the Mass or beforehand or after.

Any socialising must observe the restrictions; refreshments should not be offered.

Take care with the giving of Communion, which can only be on the hand.

A record of attendees is to be kept, including name, contact information and time present.

There should be cleaning of hard surfaces, such as on top of seats and door handles after each Mass. Hospital grade or anti-viral disinfectant should be used. Allow an hour between Masses for this cleaning to be done. This may affect your Mass times.

Churches should not be open unless someone to monitor and record attendance is present.

OPPORTUNITY TO RESUME MASS ATTENDANCE

The State Government of Victoria has relaxed rules governing church attendance, however, there are still restrictions to numbers. These are limited to a maximum of **10 parishioners** plus required officials that can include an altar server, a door attendant and reader etc. **The total number must not exceed those allowed by the 4 square metre requirement.** On the plus side, this means that we can have weekday Masses and up to three services on Sundays catering for about 100 people per week. Whilst complying, I'd like to invite St Mary's and St. Michael's Parishioners to book for and attend Mass.

The attendance limit is fixed and conditions apply, so in order to make this work and be fair to all I have revised daily Mass times to include some after-hours times to suit those with time constraints. I also need to be mindful of and not exclude our smaller communities of Newry, Dargo and Cowwarr.

Some members of the two PPC groups [St. Mary's and St. Michael's] will fine-tune the details next week, however, to get started, I have drawn up attendance sheets and will take phone bookings of days you could attend and/or volunteer on **0490 384 454** to maximise attendance. If you are unable to fill your booking, it is important to let us know.

Initially Mass will be as given below. This maybe revised, if need be. Please bear with us as restrictions continue to unfold.

It is definitely a start – a slow start. Given the limited number of attendees, please be prepared to move your days of attending Mass. For instance, if you have got an opportunity to attend a weekend Mass, try not to book again for another subsequent weekend. Your cooperation will allow other people to attend some Sunday Masses during this time. **Your attendance is ensured only through phone bookings received.**

❖ **For bookings for Masses from Saturday [16 May] to Wednesday [20 May] please ring **0490 384 454 on Saturday [16 May] from 10:00am to 12noon only.** Should this number be unavailable, please ring the parish office.**

❖ **For bookings for Masses from Thursday [21 May] to Wednesday [27 May] please ring **0490 384 454 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week from 10:00am to 12noon only.****

We are all eager to 'get back to normal' but that will still be some time away yet. I want you all to know that I will try to keep family groups together and take into consideration individual needs, and that my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Note that reconciliation and other pastoral activities still continue 'behind the scenes' upon request.

I have come up with amended Mass times for our parishes during the restrictions.

Day	Church	Time
Monday	St. Mary's, Maffra	6:00pm
Tuesday	St. Michael's, Heyfield	9:30am
Wednesday	St. Mary's, Maffra	9:30am
Thursday	St. Mary's, Maffra	9:30am
Friday	St. Mary's, Maffra	9:30am
Saturday	St. Michael's, Heyfield	9:30am
Saturday	St. Michael's, Heyfield	6:00pm
Sunday	St. Mary's Maffra	9:00am
Sundays*	St. Ita's, Newry / St. Brigid's Cowwarr	11:00am
Sunday	St. Mary's, Maffra	6:00pm

1st and 3rd Sundays – St. Brigid's, Cowwarr

2nd and 4th Sundays – St. Ita's, Newry

5th Sundays – St. Joseph's, Dargo

Weekday Masses may be subject to change due to funerals other celebrations or any unforeseen circumstances.

Hopefully, these added Mass times will allow more people to attend Mass.

REMINDER: Dispensation from Sunday Obligation remains current.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Churches can be open for private prayers provided an attendant to monitor, record attendance and to carry out the cleaning as per required is present. This important issue will be discussed with the combined PPC team and will advise you shortly.

Fr. Siju Xavier.
