



**Parishes in Partnership**  
**St. Mary's Maffra [Newry & Dargo]**  
**St. Michael's Heyfield-Cowwarr**

Phone: 03 5147 1921 email: [Maffra@cdsale.org.au](mailto: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>



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**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A, 19<sup>TH</sup> April, 2020**

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
 Fr. Siju Xavier  
 Email: [Siju.Xavier@cdsale.org.au](mailto:Siju.Xavier@cdsale.org.au)

**PRIEST EMIRITUS:**  
 Fr. Frank Young

**PARISH SECRETARY:**  
 Willie Schoenmaekers  
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**WEEKEND MASSES: Heyfield**  
 Saturday Vigil: -6.00pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Cowwarr: 11.00am

**WEEKEND MASSES: Maffra**  
 Sunday: 9.00am  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Newry: 11.00am  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Dargo: 12.00pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
**HEYFIELD**  
 Tuesday: -9.30am  
**MAFFRA**  
 Wednesday: 5.00pm  
 Thursday: -9.30am  
 Friday: 10.00am  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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,

I greet you with joy and peace of our Risen Lord!

Easter, the most important of all liturgical feasts, and all attendant family celebrations, has gone past leaving us melancholic due to Covid-19.

Our Good Lord knows what he is doing and why? We, his creatures continue to give praise to him for he is good and he never abandons his children. With that faith, let us continue to live our life during this difficult and unprecedented time of sufferings.

A few matters.

Thank you:

I wish to thank you dear parishioners for your continued support to your parishes. I thank you for checking upon me and my wellbeing. I am doing okay. I am getting more tribunal work to do while we are under restrictions. Thank you to those who have sent cards and Easter wishes and meals and sweets. Much grateful. Thank you to those who have been thoughtful of the Presbytery account [which is the first collection that looks after your priest] and sending cheques and monies. If you have your Planned Giving envelopes, please send them monthly to the office address by post. Thank you.

St. Mary's Sacristy:

As per the original plan, a stainless bench top has been installed and hot water has been reconnected.

The Bennett Electricals will be completing their job shortly which they started last year.

Thank you all for your continued support. I have been endeavouring to deliver weekly bulletins as much as possible. If anyone wishes to receive your parish bulletin, please let us know. Send us an email with your request to the email address [Maffra@cdsale.org.au](mailto:Maffra@cdsale.org.au). Alternatively for those who have no internet connection, I am happy to drop off a printed copy. Let us know. Thank you and God bless you abundantly. TAKE CARE!

Fr. Siju Xavier, PP.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS:-

### PROJECT COMPASSION

At this time of the Corona Virus Restrictions, we are unable to bring to Church our Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, could you please donate via either online or phone. Details below.

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online. Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)  
#projectcompassion  
1800 024 413

### 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.

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

Joff Wain, Patricia (Pat) Coleman, Vladys Bogusz, Mary Withell, Millie Anderson, Doris De Bono, Lawrence Moran, Dawn Worcester, Gertrude Allman, Jake Kovco, Daniel Gleeson, Stefan Wasalski, Daniel Allman, Lillian Dudfield, Barry Harrington, Frank Green, Kevin (Ned) MacManus. Frs. Richard Buckley, John McCann, Michael Hallinan, Thomas Hurley

### For the Faithful Departed

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word,

My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than the watchman for  
daybreak.

(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

V. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon  
them.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come to you.

Let us pray.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of  
all the faithful, grant to the souls of your  
servants departed the remission of all  
their sins, that through our pious  
supplication they may obtain that  
pardon which they have always  
desired; who live and reign for ever  
and ever.

R. Amen.

#### WEEKLY COLLECTION

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

#### 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](http://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](http://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

## Here are some useful resources for you.

- St. Agatha's Cranbourne has introduced everyday Mass online. Please visit:

<https://www.stagathas.org.au/>

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has a list of online links which help us with our spiritual growth while this predicament is undergoing. <https://catholic.org.au/coronavirus>
- **Participating in Mass online**
  - Mass on Demand <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>
  - Melbourne Catholic Mass on line <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
  - Word on Fire Daily Mass [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass) (as this is from the USA, we are viewing yesterday's Mass)
- **Making a Spiritual Communion** <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>

## Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

*(Adapted from [Vatican News](#).)*

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## First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

## Responsorial Psalm:

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **(R.)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

## Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading.: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Second Reading.: 1 Pt 1:17-21

Gospel Reading: Lk 24:13-35



## SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ

[This commentary has recently been revised and updated]

It is understandable that the Church should celebrate the octave of Easter by reading each year the episode in the Fourth Gospel where the risen Lord appears to Thomas ‘eight days later’ (20:19-31).

This is preceded, appropriately enough, by a First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47) describing the life of the disciples in the very early days of the Church. The summary gives a rather idealised view of early Church life, one not destined to continue in all its details. What it chiefly communicates is the sense that the power of the Spirit, so evident in the ministry of Jesus and later at Pentecost, continues in the subsequent life of the church.

One sign of the Spirit’s presence is the continuing increase in numbers of converts, drawn by the sheer attractiveness of the communal life of believers and the spirit of joy and thanksgiving palpable among them. At one level they continue to be devout Jews, frequenting the Temple daily. But other practices reflect a new direction: daily instruction from the Apostles and meals shared in common, the climax of each being the Eucharistic commemoration of Jesus (‘the breaking of the bread’).

The sharing of material goods denoted by ‘having all things in common’ was destined to last in Christianity only in the monastic tradition. But beyond the material sense, we should be aware of an axiom pervasive in Greco-Roman society that ‘friends have all things in common’. What is being indicated, then, is that the early disciples were a community of friends. They shared friendship with the Lord Jesus and because of that they were friends with each other. This is the essential meaning of the Greek word *koinōnia* – a difficult word to translate, though ‘communion’ is preferable to ‘fellowship’. *Koinōnia* denotes the bond created between individuals on the basis of a common participation in some other thing (here the friendship of Jesus). This rich idea remains, of course, central to the Church’s sense of its own identity.

The attractive Second Reading from the beginning of the First Letter of Peter (1:3-9) complements much of this, especially in its sense of a hope held in common. The beautiful expression with reference to Jesus towards the end –

'You did not see him, yet you loved him' – aptly prepares the way for the 'blessing' Jesus will pronounce at the close of today's Gospel on those who 'have not seen, yet believe' (see below).

Gospel (John 20:19-31): Thomas is one of the most clearly defined characters in the Fourth Gospel. Born loser, realist, pessimist, he has missed out on the Easter night appearance of Jesus. He won't believe in the resurrection simply on the other disciples' claim 'we have seen the Lord'. He lays down his explicit, highly 'physical' conditions.

With the divine 'courtesy' that seems to be a feature of the risen Lord in all the appearance stories of the gospels, Jesus is prepared, eight days later, to meet Thomas' conditions exactly. Before the risen Lord in person, however, Thomas abandons them and makes the most exalted act of faith contained in the gospel: 'My Lord and my God!'. The confession takes us back to the Prologue: '... the Word was with God and the Word was God' (1:1); 'No one has ever seen God; it is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known' (1:18). At this climactic moment of the gospel it is Thomas, the late-comer, the obtuse one, the doubter, who proclaims the full identity of Jesus.

But that is not the end. Jesus adds a comment that brings us into the picture too. Thomas has believed because, like Mary Magdalene (20:16) and the other disciples present in the room, he has seen the risen Jesus. Others – succeeding generations of believers – will not see Jesus. Unlike Thomas, they have to believe simply on the report handed down in the Church's preaching: 'We have seen the Lord'. On them – on us, that is – Jesus pronounces a blessing: 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Why 'blessed'? Because from them/from us a faith greater than that of Thomas and the others will be required: the greater the faith the more scope for the power of God.

So the first 'edition' of John's Gospel (chapters 1-20) ends with this solemn assurance that believers of all subsequent generations are in no way at a disadvantage compared to the original disciples who saw and heard and touched the Lord. The written gospel imparts to us all the knowledge necessary for a life-giving encounter with the risen Lord.

## SCRIPTURAL IMAGES

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles.  
They went as a body to the Temple every day and met in their houses for the breaking of bread.  
Your faith is more precious than gold.  
You did not see him yet you love him.  
Peace be with you.  
Receive the Holy Spirit.  
Doubt no longer but believe.  
My Lord and my God!



## Morning offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends and in particular for the intentions of our Holy Father. Amen.  
O my God, I offer you all my thoughts, words, actions and sufferings; and I beseech you to give me your grace that I may not offend you this day, but may faithfully serve you and do your holy will in all things. Amen.

## Night Prayers

O my God, I thank you for all the benefits which I have ever received from you, and especially this day.  
Give me light to see what sins I have committed, and grant me grace to be truly sorry for them.  
May our Blessed Lady, St Joseph and all the saints, pray for us to our Lord, that we may be preserved this night from sin and all evil. Amen.  
O my good angel, whom God has appointed to be my guardian, watch over me during this night.  
Angels and Saints of God, pray for me.

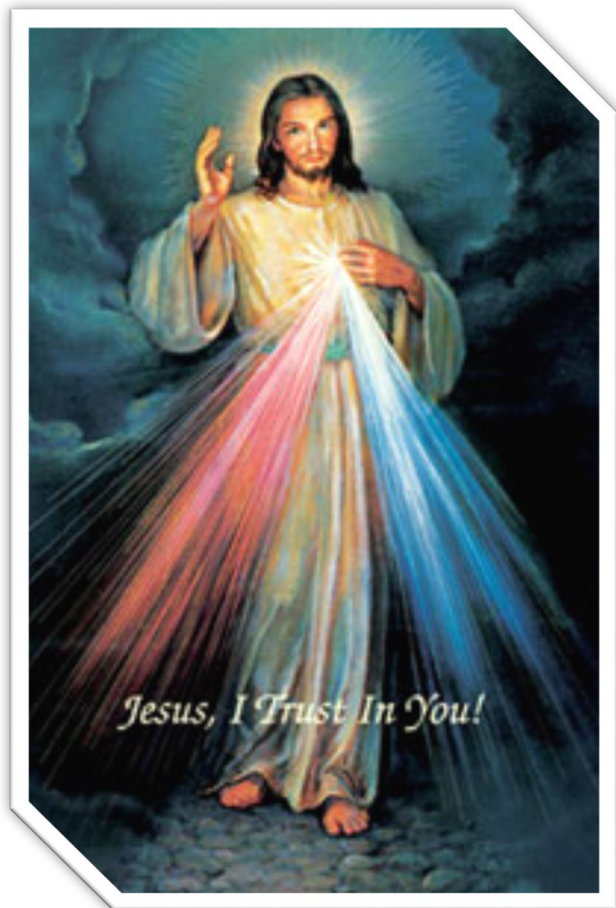
## On going to bed

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit:  
Lord Jesus, receive my soul.  
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ crucified, I lay me down to rest.  
Bless me, O Lord, and defend me; preserve me from a sudden and unprovided death and from all dangers, and bring me to life everlasting with you.

## JOKE OF THE WEEK:

1) **Traffic cop's mercy:** A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*" The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*"

2) **Photographer's mercy:** The story is told of a politician who, after receiving the proofs of a picture, was very angry with the photographer. He stormed back to the man's studio and screamed at him: "This picture does not do me justice!" The photographer replied, "Sir, with a face like yours, what you need is mercy, not justice!"



## ST. FAUSTINA AND THE IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY:

St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2000, at 10:00 AM on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. [John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day - April 27 in 2014 - by Pope Francis.] Saint

Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, Who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks:

1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy;
2. to tell the world about God's generous Mercy;
3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy.

At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" (*Jezu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the water of Baptism which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

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