



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/>



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A, 22ND MARCH, 2020

Wednesday 18 March 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: 41.00am

WEEKEND MASSES: Maffra

Sunday: 9.00am
2nd & 4th Sunday - Newry: 41.00am
5th Sunday - Dargo: 42.00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

HEYFIELD

Tuesday: -9.30am

MAFFRA

Wednesday: 5.00pm

Thursday: -9.30am

Friday: 4.00am

2nd Friday Stretton Park 4.00am

Saturday: 9.30am

RECONCILIATION:

MAFFRA

Saturday: After Mass 4.00am

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)

Prayerful greetings to the people of God across Victoria

This morning the Prime Minister announced that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people, and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective today. Given the seriousness of COVID-19, we support this measure as being responsible and sensible, and we encourage everyone to follow public safety guidelines respectfully.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation. Deferring these liturgies may also be an option that is offered to families.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online. (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis. We assure our people that the Mass is being offered for you in our parishes and that while you are not physically present, you still participate spiritually and that you are close to the hearts of your pastors in the Eucharist.

We urge the clergy to make themselves available to visit individuals, especially those who are unwell and vulnerable. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

Again, we encourage you to regularly consult your local websites for further details of local arrangements.

Tomorrow further pastoral guidelines will be shared in the Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst. Clergy and religious should consult with their Ordinary if any questions remain uncertain.

All of this is happening during the Season of Lent, a time of preparation for the Easter mysteries. While we are invited to be self-sacrificial at this time, we must remember the words of Jesus upon appearing before his disciples after his resurrection: Again and again he said "peace be with you." (Jn 20:19) Let us not panic, nor be anxious, nor reduce ourselves to caring only for ourselves. This is a time to be sensible, practical, prayerful, and to share Christ's peace with those who are struggling to feel calm and safe.

Thank you for all your patience, prayers and resilience.

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
Most Rev Patrick Michael O'Regan, Bishop of Sale

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:-

ANNUAL RAFFLE for Catholic Women’s League funds is on again! Members will sell tickets for several days in Johnston Street. Please come prepared – remember it may be your lucky day! Thank you.

LENTEN GROUP: has been cancelled until further notice.

CHILD SAFE TRAINING

Sunday 26 April has been postponed until further notice.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

Let’s Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

ROSTERS: MAFFRA

The new rosters are out now. They commence this Sunday 22nd March, except for the Counting and Flower rosters which are still current. Please be mindful that all rosters have been cancelled due to no Masses.

DARGO MASS: 29th March has been cancelled

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

28th March – 1st April has been cancelled

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTION	
PRESBYTERY:	\$ 669
ST. MARY’S PG:	\$ 256
ST. MICHAEL’S PG:	\$ 410

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD:-

Recently Deceased: Bernie Shanahan Anniversaries:

Serafina Lewandowski, Ron McLaverty, Frederick Abikhair, Bill Janos, Tom McCole, Laura Clark, Frank Sim, Nancy Kelly, Jonathon McKinndal, Jean Fogarty, Dolly Coleman, Lila Higgins. Frs. James O’Kean, Patrick F. Quigley, John Forster

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.

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.

Recitation of Holy Rosary:

Maffra: Thursdays at 8.55am and First Thursday – for mothers, fathers, unborn babies and those involved in abortion – **Suspended until further notice**

Newry: Thursday at 7.30pm (not during School Holidays) **Suspended until further notice**

Heyfield: Prior to Vigil Mass 5.30pm - **Suspended until further notice**

Cowwarr: Wednesday at 9.45am - **Suspended until further notice**

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS

If you have recently moved to our parishes or would like to register yourselves as parishioners, we ask that you kindly contact the Parish Office. 5147 1921

Email: Maffra@cdsale.org.au

RIDES TO AND FROM MASS: Anyone needing a ride to and from Mass, can call the parish office on Thursdays, 51471921 and a ride will be arranged - **Suspended until further notice**

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

SLIGHTLY CATECHETICAL -----

CONFESSION: IT PUTS YOU STRAIGHT WITH EVERYONE

Penance, aka confession, is the sacrament of the forgiveness of sin. You can’t beat it for convenience. It’s available practically whenever. Tell a priest you want to go to confession and you’ll get his attention. One bishop I know was cornered on an airplane. Another passenger figured out what was going on and asked if he could confess too. It must have been an interesting game of musical seats. An interesting question for priests might be: Where was the strangest place you ever administered the sacrament of penance? The answers I’ve gathered include “in a sports bar, at a graduation party” and “on the golf course, walking up the fairway.”

Confession has benefits.

Continued from last week:

6. Contribution toward world peace. *Gaudium et Spes*, the Second Vatican Council’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, said that the imbalances in the world that lead to war and tensions “are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man.” Peace of soul leads to peace of heart leads to peace beyond oneself.

7. A better neighbourhood. Confession leaves you feeling good about yourself, thereby cutting back the inclination to road rage and aggressive shopping cart driving. With the grace of the sacrament you’re energized to, as Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, “go and sin no more.”

8. Realistic self-perception. Confession helps overcome arrogance when you have to admit you’re as much of a sinner as anyone else. It helps build tolerance for others’ perceived shortcomings.

9. One more benefit of being Catholic. There are lots of benefits, including a sense of community, liturgical rites to help us encounter God in prayer, and the wonderful sense of humanity exemplified in the saints, from Mary, the loving Mother of God, to Augustine, the exasperating son of Monica. The sacrament that leads us to inner peace is among the greatest boons.

10. Closeness to God. Confession helps you realize that you have a close connection to God and receive his grace through the sacraments. What can be better than knowing God’s on your team, or, to be less arrogant about it, that you are on God’s.

MAFFRA PARISH LITURGICAL ROSTER [MARCH]

WELCOMER:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
LITURGY:	Sun: 29 th	Office
READER:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
COMMENTATOR:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
COMPUTER:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
OFFERTORY PROCESSION:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
COLLECTORS:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
VISITING TEAM:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
ALTAR SERVERS:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
FLORISTS:	Sun. 29 th	<u>No Flowers during Lent</u>
SACRED VESSELS:	MONTH OF MARCH	N/A Until Further Notice
SACRISTANS:	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
COUNTING TEAM	[This Weekend 22 nd]	N/A Until Further Notice
		Recorder: Barbara Gray
	[Next Weekend 29 th]	N/A Until Further Notice
		Recorder: Barbara Gray
CUPPA AFTER MASS	Sun. 19 th Apr	N/A

HEYFIELD PARISH LITURGICAL ROSTER [MARCH]

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK:	Sat. 28 th	N/A Until Further Notice
READER:	Sat. 28 th	N/A Until Further Notice
OFFERTORY PROCESSION:	Sat. 28 th	N/A Until Further Notice
FLORISTS:	Sat. 28 th	<u>No Flowers during Lent</u>
ALTAR LINEN –	MONTH OF MARCH	N/A Until Further Notice

ST JOSEPH'S DARGO [MARCH]

READER	Sun. 29 th	N/A Until Further Notice
CHURCH CLEANING	[MONTH OF MARCH]	N/A Until Further Notice

- **Stations of the Cross during Lent: Newry – Fridays at 7am - N/A Until Further Notice**
- **Stations of the Cross during Lent: Maffra – Fridays at 3pm - N/A Until Further Notice**
- **Stations of the Cross during Lent: Heyfield – Fridays at 5pm - N/A Until Further Notice**

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading.: Ez 37:12-14
Second Reading.: Rom 8:8-11
Gospel Reading: Jn 11:1-45



GIPPSLAND ORDINARIATE MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS:

HOLY MASS: ST. BRIGID'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, COWWARR - 9.30am
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – [SUNDAYS PRIOR TO MASS]

WEEKDAYS:

ST. BRIGID'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, COWWARR

MONDAY: 9.00am TUESDAY: 6.00pm WEDNESDAY: 10.00am followed by Adoration till 11.00am
THURSDAY: 10.00am FRIDAY: 6.00pm SATURDAY: 10.00am

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS: Holy Mass 6.00 pm followed by Adoration till 12.00am

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS: Confession 9.30am; Holy Mass 10.00am; Rosary and Adoration till 11.30am

Contact: Very Rev. Fr. Ken Clark 03 5148 9477 or 0403 383 873 or
gippsland@ordinate.org.au

First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world,

so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'