



**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/parish website: <https://www.cdsale.org.au/maffra> [[heyfield](https://www.cdsale.org.au/heyfield)]



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**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A, 26 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,

Greetings of peace!

I trust that you all are staying safe and looking after yourselves.

This weekend being the 6th weekend since all public Masses have been suspended. Time flies, as everyone tells! But at this time, it might not be true for all!

We certainly have plenty of time to catch up with our own pending jobs at home and in the garden. It can be a time to touch base with our family and friends living far away or unable to catch up with them physically. A time to reflect and pray more. A time to read more and develop some skills. A time to build up personal and family relationships.

With the two disciples on their way to Emmaus, as we read in today's Gospel, Jesus catches up, though they failed to recognize him at first. However, they did recognize him at the breaking of bread.

Similarly, we need to recognize Jesus in our family members when we share the table for food, prayers and thanksgiving. It is simply easy to forget the giver and be wrapped with the gift. We're all so familiar with the story of 10 lepers and 1 returning to say "thanks" to Jesus. It has an important message for us – we can take that idea of saying thanks for granted. 'Thank you' does not come to us naturally, but 'give me' does. So, we need to always continually learn to be grateful, to be aware of how much is given to us day in and day out.

Yet, undoubtedly, we all whine about the current situation surrounding Covid-19. We've been asked to stay home. Thanks be to God – we all have a home to stay in, plenty of food to eat and clothes to wrap us up. There are millions in the world without homes and food at this time. Yet, we whinge!

Let us recall with gratitude those gifts God has lavished upon us. Let us take this time to recognize Jesus in others and be grateful to him for everything we have. It is easy to forget the GIVER and be engrossed in the GIFTS.

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:

Henry Binek, Norman McLean, Lynette Cadman, Charles Gray, Bill Goss, Eula Cummins, Leonard (ALLIN) Tudor, Isabel Bates, Michael Derix, William (Bill) Bourke, Maria Nicolaci, Allan Young, Peter Gannon. Frs. Maurice Hoyne, Timothy (Tim) O'Brien.

## ANZAC Day

*We Will Remember Them ... Lest We Forget. ANZAC Day, 25 April. Because of the pandemic there will be none of the usual dawn services or marches. The ABC in Australia will broadcast and live stream a special service at 5:30am Sydney time. This is the first time since Anzac Day services began in 1916 that New Zealanders are not able to gather nationwide to mark the anniversary. One way that individuals and families can commemorate Anzac Day this year is to stand at the driveway or front entrance of your residence at 6:00am. Lest We Forget.*



### 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 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,

you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.' **(R.)**

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand  
firm. **(R.)**

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**

4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. **(R.)**

## **Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:17-21**

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you  
speak.

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel: Lk 24:13-35**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized him at the breaking of bread.

### **NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS**

**First Reading.:** Acts 2:14. 36-41

**Second Reading.:** 1 Pt 2:20-25

**Gospel Reading.:** Jn 10:1-10



## Background on the Gospel Reading

On most Sundays during the Easter season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed.

When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with him at some length yet not recognize him. Again we discover that the risen Jesus is not always easily recognized. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Jesus has been crucified. Their hope is gone. They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Jesus himself approaches the two men, but they take him for a stranger. Jesus asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding his crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Jesus offers his own interpretation of his crucifixion and resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the disciples' eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist too we share in the breaking of the bread and discover Jesus in our midst. Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.

### NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

**'We had hoped that he would be the one.' Letting go our 'had hopes'.**

Perhaps the most important part of this reading is the first sentence about two disciples walking to Emmaus. These disciples had been told by Jesus, 'Wait in Jerusalem' and here they are, with their backs to Jerusalem, walking out on him. They've given up. As they later explain to the stranger who walks with them, they 'had hoped' that Jesus would be the great saviour, but things haven't turned out how they wanted.

These two men give me great heart. Like them I find myself sometimes full of 'had hopes' that don't work out. I 'had hoped' this would happen, or that! And somehow I pinned my faith in God to these 'had hopes', so then when they don't happen it seems

God has gone. Jesus explains in this journey that God's plan wasn't the same as the disciples, that in fact their 'had hopes' were unreal. Jesus' way of being the saviour, in some mysterious way included the event of his execution. God's plan went way beyond mere political freedom which his disciples had wanted.

These disciples have all the necessary information. They know of Jesus' death, they have heard about the empty tomb and the declaration that, 'he is alive'. But intellectual information is not the basis of faith. Jesus comes to these two men, unrecognised. He journeys with them and opens up the scriptures in such a way that their vision of God is expanded. In their view, a suffering and dying Messiah was incompatible with God's action. They could not see God in the recent events. Jesus opened their eyes to the possibility that God could be present even in suffering and death. Listening to his words, their hearts burned within them. They shift from intellectual information, to an inner conversion of heart. This change of heart is the basis of faith, and in this new faith perception their eyes were opened to see that the stranger was Jesus.

It is not easy to let go 'had hopes' and to surrender what I want for what God wants, and yet this is the transformation or conversion that is needed if we are to walk within God's path. What heartens me in this story is that while disciples may walk out on Jesus, he doesn't give up on them (us). Jesus joins these two deserters and gradually in mulling things over in his presence they are able to let go their plans and turn around towards Jerusalem to rejoin the salvation story.

### EMMAUS

Their backs were turned to Jerusalem  
the memories of that Friday too bitter  
there was nothing to hold them now.

They had hoped -  
even that was cause for sour taste.

They'd given him their time  
left villages and families to follow;  
and what hurt most  
they'd given him their hearts.

His words were strange  
but they had known his friendship  
and learned to trust  
even to love.

But now!

They walked on  
and he joined them.

The dry dust of their journey  
and their hearts  
clouded their vision.

Weighed down with loss, betrayal, fear  
they did not see  
he travelled with them.

Even when he spoke

recalling a history

they still did not perceive.

Their blind journey continued to  
Emmaus

and could have gone beyond  
but for a word -

a simple shattering word of invitation.

'Stay with us.

The darkness is upon us.'

And in the shared darkness

their eyes were opened

and their broken hearts healed.

In memory of him became Eucharist  
and life to be shared with others.

Surely this is Easter -

not once a past event

but in the darkness of our journey

finding a God

walking the dark ways with us  
into dawn.



# Catholic Diocese of Sale

## Diocesan Administrator's Office

PO Box 1410  
6 Witton Street  
WARRAGUL 3820

Ph: (03) 5622 6600

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21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Sale

Grace and peace, I hope this note finds you well.

The first reading of today's Mass reminds us of our mission to testify to the resurrection of the Lord and to be like Barnabas, sons of encouragement. While this is more difficult at the moment, Pope Francis reminds us to use well this time of confinement to think and act creatively. May the Spirit continue to inspire us.

I wish to let you know that I shall be installed as the 9<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Adelaide on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> May, the solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, at 10.30am in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide. It is then that the See of Sale will become vacant.

Consequently, I shall be leaving the Diocese of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of May. This is due to the fact that I shall have to 'self-isolate' for period of two weeks upon arrival in South Australia.

I have appointed Fr. Peter Slater as the Diocesan Administrator's delegate.

With all the encouragement I can muster to seek new ways to be testifiers to the resurrection of the Lord,

In Domino

Archbishop-Elect Patrick O'Regan  
Diocesan Administrator

# Keeping the Faith

## Helping families stay connected

Dear Fr Siju,

**As Masses are restricted throughout the world, many parish and school communities are asking what they can do to keep their families connected to their faith. CathFamily can help with our online resources which are available free of charge.**

### 1: FREE Resource Database

CathFamily has a vast library of free resources for families, schools and parishes that celebrates Catholic culture. The free weekly eNews lists seasonal resources including downloadable prayers, feast day celebrations, recipes, craft, articles and links to other helpful resources.

Visitors can search and browse our thousands of posts or take advantage of our eNews to triage the most relevant content for the week.

[\[Go to CathFamily\]](#)

### 2: Children's Sunday Liturgy @Home

CathKids is a weekly interactive experience designed for primary aged children that includes a short animated video on the Sunday reading, 'I wonder' questions, a craft activity and prayers. CathKids has a modest subscription fee but due to the situation with COVID19 we are offering this resource

FREE for the next 3 months.

[\[Sign up FREE here\]](#)

CathKids is a weekly interactive experience with a short animated video on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity, and prayer. It's perfect for use in the classroom, in children's liturgy and at home. It can be used in groups facilitated by an adult or in self-directed exploration

by children aged 7-12. Subscribe now!

**FREE until June 30, 2020**

For all resources and to sign up, please visit <https://cathfamily.org>

In Faith & in Love,  
Francine & Byron Pirola  
Directors: Parish & Marriage Resource Centre.