



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



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A, 26TH July, 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)

Day	Church	Time
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	6:00pm
Sunday	St. Mary's Maffra	9:00am
Sunday	St. Ita's, Newry or St. Brigid's Cowwarr	11:00am
Sunday	St. Mary's, Maffra	4:30pm

Please continue bookings for **Weekend Masses**
Between 10:00am to 12:00pm on **TUESDAYS,**
WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS 0490 384 454
Please do not leave any Messages on this
number for the voicemail is **NOT** set up on it.
Thank you.

PRAYER FOR 2020 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Pope Francis has stated that human trafficking is "without any doubt, a crime against humanity". "Trafficking seriously damages humanity as a whole, tearing apart the human family and the Body of Christ." (St Peter's Square, Rome, April 10, 2019).

Let us pray for all who have been robbed of their
God-given dignity:

Loving God, may our prayers and actions cast light
on this crime and help bring it to an end. May
those who suffer know the blessings of true justice
and peace.

Amen.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:-

ROSTERS – FLOWERS

Sunday 2nd August:

Marg Durrant, Gil Wals

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.

BULLETIN ON THE WEB

You can now download our parish bulletins from the website

cdsale.org.au/maffra
cdsale.org.au/heyfield

PLENARY 2020 UPDATE

As some parts of the country return to something closer to normal, there's a sense of relief that the two assemblies of the Plenary Council -- previously postponed due to COVID-19 -- are locked in. We will gather in Adelaide in October 2021, 12 months later than we had planned, for the first assembly. The second assembly will be held in Sydney in July 2022.

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

Lidio Pasquali, Jean Westaway, Elma Caffrey, Angela Taylor, Maree Carrolan, Joan Marchesi, Elizabeth Beha, Christopher Robson, May Buxton, Wladyslaw Bednarczyk, Wendy Westland, Donald Scheffer, Helena Derix, John Lowrie.
Frs. Michael Murphy, Martin Hayes, Reginald (Reg) Wilson, Francis Feruga S.Chr, Mgr John O'Hea

**"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 above left]

Close with the sign of the cross

Entrance Antiphon:

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading: 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Rom 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Communion Antiphon:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Is 55:1-3

Second Reading: Rom 8:35. 37-39

Gospel: Mt 14:13-21

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found

the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

DAILY MEDITATION: MATTHEW 13:44-52

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. (Matthew 13:45)

What are you looking for in life? Everybody is searching for something. Children long for a special toy or game. Teenagers look for a boyfriend or girlfriend or success at school. Working people might be seeking out the next big career opportunity. People of any age could be wanting financial security or peace of mind.

Today's Gospel introduces us to someone who is also a seeker: a merchant on a quest for fine pearls. Like many of us, this merchant is searching for something specific. And in the midst of his search, he finds something far more wonderful than what he expected: one single pearl of surpassing value, a "pearl of great price" (Matthew 13:46). Seeing it, he gives up the search for those "fine pearls." He commits himself fully to obtaining that one beautiful pearl—so much so that he sells everything else so that he can buy it.

Surely the merchant wasn't able to sell everything all at once. There were probably times when he doubted himself. But he kept at it, day after day, item after item, until he finally had it—the pearl of his dreams. At last he was content!

Jesus says this merchant shows us what the kingdom of heaven is like. It is made up of people like us, searching for happiness. In some ways, the things we seek can make us happy. But finding Jesus and being part of his kingdom far surpasses the happiness that anything else can give. In him we find the answer to our deepest longings for love and reconciliation. For security and fulfilment. For purpose and meaning.

Make no mistake: things we long for can often be good things. But remember the merchant. There was nothing wrong with the pearls he was trading in. Yet he sold all of them for that one pearl of great price. "Lord, help me to see you as a priceless pearl worth everything in my life." *[Taken from WAU website.]*

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

'God's reign is like ...'

There is a story of an Indian monk who found the world's largest diamond. In a nearby village a man had a dream that if he went to a certain monastery he could gain enormous wealth beyond all his hopes. The villager arrived at the monastery and told the monk his dream. The monk explained, 'The dream probably refers to this,' and handed over the diamond to him. The villager returned home with great joy, but that night tossed and turned. The next week he returned to the monastery,

utterly exhausted and begged, 'Give me the wealth that enables you to give away this diamond so easily.'

The two parables today remind me of this Indian tale. Jesus says that the reign of God is so great a treasure that it is worth giving up all you have. People who have had profound experiences often struggle to find the words to describe this for others. They find themselves resorting to images – 'It was like ...; it was as if ...'. In the parables Jesus tries to find ways of explaining why the reign of God has so captivated his own imagination. Of course Jesus speaks of a treasure and a pearl he has already found, while the disciples and later Christians only glimpse God's reign in moments of insight.

And yet even these brief and veiled glimpses have been enough to sustain disciples for two thousand years and even today there are many prepared to give all they have in following Christ. These men and women have found the wealth that enabled the monk to give away the diamond.

Paul, whose letter we are currently reading, is an example of one who lived out this parable with utter recklessness. Paul's encounter with the Risen Jesus led him to know the overwhelming love of God is not determined by following the Law, but is an utterly gracious gift of God to us. He reflects today, could anything get in the way of this love God has for us; and Paul concludes, there is nothing that can separate us from God's love.

This is the treasure that Paul found, enabling him to put aside all the lawful requirements of Judaism he previously thought were the only way to salvation. Paul had once been a Pharisee, one completely dedicated and given over to his Jewish traditions and teaching.

Yet, when he comes to know Jesus, he is able to let all this go, to 'hand over the diamond' of his previous life and take up a new calling to spread the Gospel he has now discovered. In the reading from Romans today, it is as if we are listening in to Paul's astonishment at the depths of God's love, a love of us that enabled God to give us Jesus. In a sense, Jesus is God's diamond, given over to us in love. Recognising this enables Paul to give over the diamond of his own life.

The third parable in the collection that Matthew offers picks up the theme of last week's parable about the weeds and the wheat growing together. Today's parable shifts the image from gardening to fishing where the net hauls in a wide catch of both good fish and worthless things. Once again, there will come a time when sorting will happen but not in the middle of the fishing process. Only when the fishing work is over, will the catch be sorted.

When I think of this week's fishing parable and last week's about the wheat and the weeds, I wonder what must have been happening in Matthew's community for him to give his community these two parables, as they are not recorded in Mark and Luke.

Were divisions starting to happen? Were people beginning to make judgments about others, perhaps wanting to sort out the community? Could Matthew be trying to teach his local church to leave the sorting out to God?

The fact that these are only in Matthew certainly suggests that these had some particular purpose, even if today we can only guess what that might be.