



# 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/maffra_heyfield)



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## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR. B – 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

**PARISH PRIEST:**

Fr. Siju Xavier

Email: [Siju.Xavier@cdsale.org.au](mailto:Siju.Xavier@cdsale.org.au)

**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: 9:30pm

Thursday: 9:30am

Friday: 9:30am

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Stretton Park 10:00am

**RECONCILIATION:**

**MAFFRA:** Anytime by request

**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

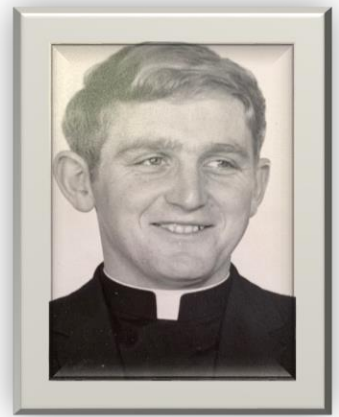
Safe Steps: 1800 015 188

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

Dear Maffra and Heyfield-Cowwarr parishioners, greetings!

A few matters:

1. I'm in no doubt that by now you would have heard the news of Fr. Young's peaceful death on 7 December at mid-afternoon. Funeral arrangements have been made. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11:00am on Monday 14 December at St. Mary's Church, Maffra by our Bishop Greg Bennet and concelebrated by several clergy of our diocese and Fr. Young's classmates and friends from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Family and friends of Fr. Young will be present at the requiem Mass.



I am sure that all of you would love to go to his requiem Mass. Due to the ongoing restrictions still in place on numbers permitted in the church, I am offering you an opportunity to farewell Fr. Young at a Vigil Mass to be celebrated at St. Mary's on Sunday 13 December at 6:00pm. The first 90 people will go in and the rest may stay outdoors. All are required to register. Thanks.

2. From this Sunday, we will move to QR code registration. All you have to do is to scan the QR code and provide your first name and phone number. A person with a smartphone may do the same for another without a smart phone. If you do not have a smartphone, we shall keep your details as we have been doing - registering your details on a paper.

In order to avail the 2square meter per person rule, we must implement electronic record keeping, such as a QR code. It has been put in place and it will be explained to you at the weekend Mass.

3. 25 of our school children graduated on Wednesday evening at a Mass with their parents and the staff. It was lovely to see our children, their parents and the staff in our church to celebrate the milestone in their life. God bless them as they move forward in their life journey.

4. Christmas Mass times have been decided.

**St. Michael's Heyfield** - Weather permitting - outdoor Carols at 6:00pm and Mass at 6:30pm. Please bring a chair.

**St. Mary's Maffra** - 8:30pm Carols and 9:00pm Mass.

Christmas Day Mass: 9:00am.

**Newry:** 11:00am.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Siju Xavier, PP.

## Meetings and Events:-

Stretton Park Christmas Mass  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December,  
9am. In the Activity Room.  
Please remember social  
distancing for residents only 10  
parishioner can attend. There  
will be no Mass at St Mary's  
Maffra that day.

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, Maree Welsh, and all  
those who seek our prayers.

## Advent Prayer

Loving God, accompany me on  
my journey through Advent.  
As I move through my daily  
tasks and responsibilities,  
renew my hope in you, and in  
your will for my life.

Help me to watch for your  
coming in unexpected ways,  
to hold fast to your word and  
to your promise,

and to trust that you are  
leading me at every moment.

Grant my prayer through  
Jesus Christ, your Son and  
my Hope. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD:- Fr.  
Frank Young**

### Anniversaries:

Elizabeth McKinlay, Ella V. Veness,  
Jean Jennings, John (Jack) Gray,  
Paul Woodland, John Corbett,  
Alexander Hooper, Matthew O'Dwyer,  
Patrick Hayes, Antonia Kowal,  
Kathleen Huffer, Sean Garrigan, Tom  
Fogarty, Yvonne Dwyer, Walter  
Killeen, Loretta Hutchins, Harry Davis,  
Ita Breheny, Vera Bowen.

Archbishop Eric D'Arcy, Frs.  
Cornelius Sheehan, Patrick  
Kavanagh,

### "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**

## **One Whom You Do Not Recognize**

It's early evening. You are  
walking downtown in a large city. It's a  
few weeks before Christmas, and the  
streets are filled with people shopping.  
The sidewalks are so crowded that it's  
hard to walk without bumping into  
someone. Your life has been so busy  
lately that you haven't had time to think  
about Christmas or shopping or  
anything related to the season. As you  
walk, you wonder why you even decided  
to come downtown tonight. You knew it  
would be crowded. You knew it would  
be difficult just crossing the street, but  
something drew you here, something  
that you felt deep inside.

You decide to sit in a café for a  
few minutes to let your mind settle. You  
take your coffee, but even this place is  
so full there aren't any seats available.  
You notice someone sitting at a table  
alone. "Do you mind if I sit here?" you  
ask him.

He looks up. You've seen his face  
before, but you can't remember where.  
"Not at all," he says with a smile.

You take off your coat and sit  
down. The man continues to look at you.  
At first it makes you feel uncomfortable.  
Then he asks, "What are you looking for  
tonight?"

The question strikes you as odd,  
but there is something about his face  
and voice that make you want to open  
up and speak freely. "I'm not shopping,  
that's for sure," you say laughing. "Why  
do you ask?"

He smiles and says, "I think you  
know me."

You look at him and again that  
feeling that you do know him comes  
over you. "Your face seems familiar.  
Perhaps we've met before. Are you from  
around here?" His eyes seem to look  
deep inside of you. His smile is warm  
and inviting. "I am the one you've been  
searching for. I am he."

His words penetrate deep inside  
you. You feel a sense of peace and  
calm, a feeling that he knows all about  
you and sits there without judgment. "All  
you need to do is open your eyes. I am  
here. I am everywhere. Just look."

It is then you know. It is then you  
understand. You look down at your  
coffee unable to speak but feeling more  
alive than you have in years. When you  
look up, he is gone. You look around the  
café, but you don't see him. You look  
out the window, and there he is, smiling  
at you. He points to his eyes and says,  
"Just look. I am here."

And then he disappears into the crowd.  
[Ignatianspirituality]

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.

### First Reading: **Is 61:1-2. 10-11**

**I exult for joy in the Lord.**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

### Responsorial Psalm:

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R.)**

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

### Second Reading: **1 Thes 5:16-24**

**May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit,

soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia**

### Gospel: **Jn 1:6-8. 19-28**

**There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.**

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness.

When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

### Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First R: 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Second R.: Rom 16:25-27

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

### Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the

conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

### **Have you thought? A time to Rejoice!**

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

### **Living the Gospel – A Witness? Me?**

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

### **Gospel Focus – Same but different**

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John gospel's greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

### **Questions for Adolescents**

- Q. Why do you think the priests and Levites were concerned about identifying who John was?
- Q. How might John's followers have reacted to his announcement of the one who was coming after him?
- Q. In what ways is John the Baptist portrayed as a 'witness' to Christ?
- Q. Is there someone you know who witnesses to their faith through their actions? How do they do it?
- Q. How can you be a witness?

### **Questions for Adults**

- Q. How is this week's gospel similar to / different from last week's account (Mk 1:1-8)?
- Q. Why do you think we have two accounts of the same event in the liturgy on consecutive weeks?
- Q. Is there someone you know who witnesses to their faith through their actions? How do they do it?
- Q. Are there forms of witnessing to faith that 'turn you off'?
- Q. How can you effectively witness to your faith?