

# 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/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIMES - YEAR B, 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

## PARISH PRIEST:

Fr. Edwin Ogbuka

Email: [edwinogbuka@gmail.com](mailto:edwinogbuka@gmail.com)

## PARISH SECRETARY:

Willie Schoenmaekers

Email: [marymaf@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:marymaf@aussiebb.com.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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: 9.30am

Thursday: 9.30am

Friday: 9.30am

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Stretton Park 10.00am

## RECONCILIATION:

### MAFFRA

Any time by request

### HEYFIELD:

Saturday: Before Mass 5.20pm

OR any other time by request

## EXPOSITION AND RECONCILIATION: Maffra

Wednesday: After 9.30am 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)

Greeting to you all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I know just as you all know that the lockdown has made everything so difficult which leaves us with varied challenges in our daily life. Again, let us take consolation from the beginning of the first reading from the prophet Isaiah which say to all faint of hearts, Courage! Do not be afraid. Be strong. The broken people represented the frightened, the blind, the deaf, the crippled and the speechless would be restored to wholeness. The land of the people would be fruitful, spring would turn desert into lush farmland. This passage is describing a time of divine restoration. This is our hope that God our Heavenly Father bring us back again to live our normal life through His grace.

Looking at the gospel we may ask what kinds of shortcomings do people have? How do those shortcomings challenge people to grow in faith? They can be physical, emotional, moral, behavioural, or mental as the case may be. In the time of Jesus, the ancients equate many of these shortcomings to demonic possession. Jesus freed a man from a real shortcoming, a demon, but did more than heal him. He allowed the man to hear and to speak the truth. The gift of speech is our chief means of communicating with other people. People with speech impediments are often subject of fun and amusement to people in some society.

We see the trouble Jesus went to on behalf of this poor man, and the care with which he dealt with him. He took him away from the crowd so that he could deal with him in private and to give him His undivided attention. Happily, most of us are neither deaf nor dumb. So, what relevance then has the miracle for us? We have the gift of hearing and speech. But the question is: how well do we use these precious gifts? Everybody has certain impediments that prevent them from making full use of the gift of hearing and speech. So, we need the Lord's healing touch if we are to use these two precious gifts well, to profess the word with our lips. And we need to put it into practice in our lives. The word of God when heard and acted on is like seed falling on good soil, it makes our lives fruitful.

May God bless and keep you all safe in this difficult time, let us continue to pray for ourselves, the church and the entire world, especially our brother and sisters in Afghanistan that the Lord's protection be upon them.

Fr. Edwin Ogbuka,



St. Michael the Archangel

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS:-

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

Due to Lock down we are behind in Special collections. We will be holding Special Collections once Masses resume. Please give generously to the Special Collection for CatholicCare and Father's day Appeal after all Masses or you can put the money in an envelope and put it in the letter opening in the front door of the Presbytery with which appeal you would like to contribute to or if you have our bank details you can donate online , in the remarks please state which appeal you are donating to. You can also go on the Diocese Of Sale website and they have areas for Donating. Thank you for your generosity and understanding.

### Request for Baptism Stoles

We would like to thank Lyn McLindin for the many Baptism stoles she has made over the years, she is now finding it hard to continue on with this job. If you are interested in sewing stoles we would welcome your help. Lyn is very willing to assist anyone who is willing to help. Please contact the office on 51 47 1921.

### First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion children will be celebrating their special day on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** (Maffra) will meet, Covid permitting, on Tuesday 14th September at 1.30p.m. in the Presbytery. All welcome!  
Pending on restrictions of course, Masks must be worn please.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD:-

### Anniversaries:

Marilyn Pitt, Laurence O'Dwyer, Eileen Molphy, Mona Marshall, William (BOB) Curry, Bill Harvey, Frank Neaves, Mary Keady, Margaret Whelan, David Colman, Charles O'Malley, Tony Van der Broek, Kate Kenevan, John Sargent, Connie Edge, Joe & Dorothy Roche, Leslie McQuillen.  
Frs. E. O Donohue, W. F. Power

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:

Marge Canny, Belinda Weatherley, Archie Schacht, Coral Justice, Julie Frew, Peter Smyth, Fr. Brian O'Connor, John Phelan, Lyn McLindin, Ann Martin, Evelyn Bourke, Gerry Gray, Maree Welsh, and all those who seek our prayers.

## 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

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

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

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world.

There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.



### MAFFRA PARISH LITURGICAL ROSTER [September]

LITURGY:	Sun: 12 <sup>th</sup>	Office
MASS ATTENDANCES:	Sun: 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Fogarty, Val Hackwill and Mary Gibb
READER:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dot Benson
COMMENTATOR:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jasmine Munro
EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTER	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rosemary Wirkens
COMPUTER:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nick Munro
COLLECTORS:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Could someone please volunteer.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Munro
FLORISTS:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Hartwig and Anne Munro
SACRED VESSELS:	MONTH OF September	Maureen Moulton
SACRISTANS:	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Phelan and Sylvia Neves

### HEYFIELD PARISH LITURGICAL ROSTER [September]

READER:	Sat. 11 <sup>th</sup>	George Bogusz
FLORISTS:	Sat. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Kurec
ALTAR LINEN –	MONTH OF September	Carmel Pittari



### ST ITA'S NEWRY (September)

READER	Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Dwyer
CHURCH CLEANING	[MONTH OF September)	Rosalie Coleman

## Celebrating the Season of Creation

The Christian community marks the Season of Creation throughout the whole of September, ending on 4<sup>th</sup> October with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis's landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'* and its teachings urge all of us to continue to proactively care for the earth and each other. The latest *Living Liturgy* issue listed various resources and online offerings to assist your parish in praying during this month of Creation and also to set some practical goals for sustainability and the care of our precious planet and all that it contains.

I have extracted the Season of Creation material from *Living Liturgy* And attached it here.

## FATHER'S DAY MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDWIN

Today we pray with and for our fathers as we celebrate them in our various families. It would have been an event worth celebrating together unfortunately the Covid situation has made it difficult for us. However, it should not stop us from saying thanks to all FATHERS living and dead for their great care and contribution in our life. They have been part of our life from infancy to adulthood like our mothers, doing everything to make sure we are happy. We need to appreciate them for their generous love, care, kindness, providence and for working tirelessly under the rain, sun, cold and heat to ensure that food is on the table.

May God continue to guide, protect, bless and reward the fathers in all their endeavours. And so on-behalf all those who may not have physical contact with their father to celebrate this day with them due Covid restrictions, I say a very big HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to the FATHERS and we love you.

Please pray for Willie as she has her surgery on Friday and that she recovers quickly and comes back to work soon, she will be missed.

Yours in Christ  
Father Edwin  
PP

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### FIRST READING Is 35:4-7

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the  
tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look,  
your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the  
retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of  
the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water  
gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the  
scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land  
springs of water.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to  
those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to  
the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises  
up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the  
just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts  
the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

### SECOND: Jas 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the  
kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ,  
our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions  
between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes  
into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a  
gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes  
in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-  
dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best  
seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or  
'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see  
that you have used two different standards in your mind,  
and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges  
at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor  
according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith  
and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised  
to those who love him.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL: Mk 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way  
of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the

Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who  
had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him  
to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private,  
away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears  
and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to  
heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that  
is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the  
ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke  
clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it,  
but the more he insisted, the more widely they  
published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has  
done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear  
and the dumb speak.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my  
soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for  
God, the living God.

### REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

People are amazed that Jesus can cure deafness. They  
are probably also amazed that Jesus would even be  
interested in giving any attention to a person who  
cannot hear. In his culture it was a popular belief that if  
you were deaf or blind or disabled in any way, it was  
because of a sin – your own sin or the sin of your  
parents. Anyone with such a condition was considered  
a social outcast, but Jesus is modelling a new type of  
behaviour. He reaches out to anyone and everyone –  
even the ones most people are afraid to touch or talk to.  
What makes someone a social outcast in your school?  
(Please do not name any names, but discuss the traits  
or criteria that might be used to decide why a person  
might be given such a status.)

Who decides who the social outcasts are? Is there  
complete agreement, or do different people have  
different ideas of who is acceptable and who is not  
acceptable? Does everyone know their own status? Is  
everyone aware that they are cast as acceptable or not  
acceptable? If so, how do they know?

What would Jesus say about the social games that are  
played out by young people in their schools and in their  
circles of friends? What advice would Jesus give you?  
Are you willing to follow it? Why or why not?

Do you have any friends or relatives who are deaf? Do  
you know any sign language? If you yourself are deaf,  
what is it like not hearing in a world built for those who  
can hear?

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Is 50:5-9  
Second Reading: Jas 2:14-18  
Gospel: Mk 8:27-35